

# SEVEN DAYS



## THIEF GRIEF

Robberies rise in  
Burlington  
PAGE 16

## RIDGE REACTIONS

A turbine tour  
in Lowell  
PAGE 38

## LAST "LENGTH"

Leah Torino  
takes flight  
PAGE 40

# A Man of Conviction

The many trials of Ben Chater, a disabled  
Chittenden County prosecutor

BY KEN PICARD, P. 30

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COMPILED BY AMY DARGatzE &amp; TYLER HATCHCO

# Lens on Lenore

She spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to influence this year's election. But no one had seen a photo of Lenore Broughton until Seven Days snapped her picture last Monday. Broughton is the Burlington heiress who, as of October 15, has controlled the conservative super PAC Vermont First to the tune of \$684,000. Despite her outsized influence on state elections this year, Broughton has kept a low public profile: she declines interview requests and has turned away every reporter who has knocked on her front door.

Prior to the original Seven Days story, "Who Is Lenore Broughton?" pulled in over 17 million hits. That reach was known about the 74-year-old in the state-of-the-science feature. "We couldn't find any photos of her on the web to illustrate the story. We had tried to photograph Broughton during a public meeting of the Burlington Telecom Cable Accessory Council — a volunteer board on which she serves. She left the meeting to avoid getting sketched."

Some went a little paranoid: On Monday Broughton came to Burlington City Hall for another public meeting of the Burlington Board of Registration of Voters. She was one of 43 members. (Photographer Andy Duback got her photo as she was getting on the elevator.)

As the doors closed, "She said, 'You're evil!'" Duback recounts. To which Duback says he replied that the main objective of his job was her funding of the super PAC, has become a public figure and the subject of public interest.

Also interesting: Members of the Board of Registration of Voters serve as poll watchers on Election Day, and Broughton was scheduled to work on Tuesday at the Davis Greenleaf Middle School. How comforting to know she was "watching" over candidates she supported and balloting the approved — with his figure checked.



## facing facts

**INDIGNATION SOLD**  
Broughton 2012 will probably be the year super PAC profits arrived in Vermont. Check out our coverage. [Boston.bostonherald.com](http://boston.bostonherald.com)

**QUAKER STATE**  
Another week, another Canadian war. Canada's election up to meet former Mayor of Montreal, Apollonius.

**SUPER DRUMMING**  
Steven Seagal's latest drumming album is being released. Seagal is back to help us with the drums. Seagal is back to help us with the drums.

**WHERE'S THE REALITY?**  
Dawson's Creek is back on TV. It's a good thing. It's a good thing. It's a good thing. It's a good thing.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS  
BY AMY DARGatzE

## 100,000

That's how many tickets of the first show were available for the first five days of the show.



## TOP FIVE

1. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Jay McInerney. The book is the ghost — and the story — of long-time Vermont residents.
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5. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Jay McInerney. The book is the ghost — and the story — of long-time Vermont residents.

**tweet of the week:**

7. DesignVIT

Seems like I've got my own little world. I've got my own little world. I've got my own little world. I've got my own little world.

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## CORRECTION

In last week's *Year Game*, Paul Venzon mistakenly reported that the Vermont Senate includes seven Republicans and that 10 Republicans House members are retiring. In fact, the Senate includes eight Republicans and only nine Republican House members are retiring.

## WEEK IN REVIEW

### SUSHI STANDARD

I think this review is unfair and far below the standards of Seven Days ("Plenty of Fish," March 14). I love sushi in Portland and couldn't be more enthusiastic about the quality and class that this fine establishment has brought to northern Vermont.

In case a review on sampling the most adventurous dishes at a restaurant has on the menu, without first sampling the classic dishes that the average person would order when trying a new ethnic restaurant, seems to be more of a stretch than a serious review.

That the author didn't like the 10th Lane roll is of no use to me or to most sushi lovers. I would never order the menu items reviewed by your author.

Please tell me, how were the sushi and sashimi lunches? Was the ed sushi delicious? Was the presentation perfect? Did the mixed sushi plate absolutely knock you over with the subtle flavors only found in the freshest fish paired with the perfect rice and sauces?

The answers to all these questions are a resounding "yes!" at the restaurant known as Yama, but your reviewer missed it all and in doing so did your readers a great disservice.

Vermonters deserve to know about this place.

BRUNSWICK VERMONT  
THOMAS

Editor's note: The roll mentioned above is called the King of Pine, not the 10th Lane.

### MORE 3-D PRINTERS

The owner center at Newport has had two 3-D printers for a year now ("Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," "Want exactly a 3-D printer?" October 24). As is the case in Vermont news reporting, only the schools in the Burlington area get coverage.

ROSE POINTE  
LITTLETON N.H.

### SAV SOMETHING!

Seven Days wants to publish your rants and roars. Your feedback must:

- be 250 words or fewer
- respond to Seven Days content
- include your full name, town and a daytime phone number

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Go Fish!

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### IN THE NAME OF THE SON

[Re "Burlington Days Computer System Was Chucky and Cuddy" — So Chief Mike Schelling Built a New One," October 24]. A very well written piece on my son's police department assignment system. He has combined a deep knowledge and years of experience in strategic disciplines into this system, and it has paid off for the department by managing and for the state of Vermont. He started in public service as a police officer in Colchester and went on from there. I guess you could say I am proud of this accomplishment.

Pete Schelling  
BURLINGTON

### LAKE CHAMPLAIN ISN'T 'GREAT' — DR LARGE

Lake Champlain is beautiful and beloved, but it is not the sixth largest lake in the United States ("What Lies Beneath," October 20). If you speak of natural, freshwater lakes in the United States, Lake Champlain ranks 12th in surface area. In addition to the five Great Lakes, six lakes have greater surface area than Lake Champlain: Lake Okechobee in Florida, Lake of the Woods and Red Lake in Minnesota, Lake Huron and Lake Superior in Alaska, and Lake St. Clair in Michigan. Unfortunately, the "sixth largest" falsehood has been mentioned in Champlain-area sources such as Lake Champlain Books and research websites. It is repeated frequently by local media and tourist literature. I hope Seven Days can ignore it's not necessary to twist the truth to praise Lake Champlain.

Cynthia Harris  
BURLINGTON

### SNOWBOARD GETS ITS DUE

I would like to thank Seven Days and Seanan Walsh for the fine article "Snow Show" in the October 10 edition. It is nice to see that snowboarding is starting to get greater media attention these days. With Vermont being the birthplace of snowboarding — it recently became the official state winter sport — I hope we can all now step and celebrate the historical impact it has played in our state.

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1

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& SATURDAY 10

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Count on the **Telluride Hotwater Hole Festival** to get your adrenaline pumping while you're sitting still. An on-screen tribute to the snow, snow and snowmobile sports, the best shows of this annual Colorado fest offer viewers a thrilling look at watered rafting, descent high-lining, bungee jumping and beyond.

SEE CALENDAR LISTINGS ON PAGE 50, 51 AND 54

2

SATURDAY 10

## Love Bites

**Sharon Van Etten's** debut album, *Because I Was in Love*, introduced the soulful song writer as vulnerable, tenderhearted and utterly confessional. With 2012's *Trumpets* she's soaring, striking and unflinching in the emotional fallout of love. She arrives at the **Higher Ground Showcase Lounge** in a delicious blur of indie rock.

SEE TODAY OFFPICK TO AND CLUB DATE OFFPICK 74

3

SATURDAY 10

## Hipster Classical

There's quite a gap between classical and indie rock, but if anyone can bridge the gap, it's **Brooklyn Rider**. Classically trained classicalists who never score up a stunt by live, this famed string quartet serves no genre untamed. They've been known to incorporate everything from Muslim traditions to gypsy music to existing chamber literature.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

4

FRIDAY 9

## Fancy Footwork

Starts swift and constant, clock in **FlamencoFrenzy!** The latest from the Flamenco Dance Project, this visually stunning performance features lightning-fast foot stomps by world-renowned gypsy dancer José Moreno and fiery Andalusian rhythms from an accomplished music ensemble. *Just!*

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 50

5

THURSDAY 8-SUNDAY 11

## Light My Candle

No debut today...DE. Thursday through Sunday —So-called Lync Theatre Company's full production, *Lighting what grows to be an enduring rock ballad on a Puccini opera*. Jeremiah Lumsden's 1995 musical *Rock* follows Lower East Side artists as they live out love, bohème, gripping belly beats, love and the AIDS epidemic along the way.

SEE TODAY ON PAGE 50 AND CALENDAR LISTINGS ON PAGE 50

6

SATURDAY 10

## Lost and Found

Roaming through Dumpster's has its perks, especially for Heidi Krueher and Joe Richard. The comedic duo hosted the **Found Footage Festival** during this quirky lineup of red-carpeted videotapes. Expect hilariously outstated exercise workouts and "a video featuring a woman whose enthusiasm for craft spawning borders on psychosis."

SEE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 53

7

ONGOING

## Aussie Art

Cullen Brown's extensive collection of Aboriginal art, **"Ongoing Cultures"**, is a study in Australia's art and poetry, currently on display in the Hood Museum of Art through March 10. The exhibit features works by various artists and includes artists' older, non-drawing art themes of ancestry, the environment and collective land of Oz, here we come.

SEE ART REVIEW ON PAGE 70



erlier, the two Demos could've headed off the Prag Challenge.

Sen. President Pro Tem **JOHN CAMPBELL** (D-Windsor) made a case for misdeed in alienating Progressives/ Democratic state senate candidate **BAND DUCKHAM** who's likely to win a seat. But he played nice. Campbell might have one more friend in the Senate:

**NO. 12: IN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR, ROBERT GARD ABOUT LOCAL BALLOT INITIATIVES — AND THAT COULD HELP EMBURGING MAYOR NED WENDEGGER.** When

he pulled for a November vote on those cherished ballot items, Wendegger pitched a campaign as running as his own anyway had in fact, pretty much nobody in Burlington paid attention until the Vermonters First super-PAC staged a last-minute effort to delay one of them.

If Wendegger's initiative clear the high-two-third threshold for passage, it'll be because a lot of people turned out to the polls, shaggy and said, "Whatever, but if they fail, you can expect to see a last-minute blow-off on Vermonters First — not as bad timing as a take-home sales pitch.

**NO. 13: SENATOR IS BOUNDING.** Who would've guessed the 2012 Liberty Union candidate for U.S. Senate, who won just 3 percent of the vote, would hardly face a reelection challenge to hold on to that seat 44 years later?

Senators started off any serious state petition and moved nearly \$9.2 million from credit from an insurance, nationwide network of small-dollar donors. With his next reelection campaign six years away, look for Bernie to focus on building his national brand as the voice of the left.

## Next Up

With one election behind him, Gov. Peter Shumlin has another to go — for the chairmanship of the Democratic Governors Association.

Early next month, Shumlin will attend the DGA's annual meeting in Los Angeles. There, the nation's Democratic governors will elect their next leader, who serves as chief spokesperson, fundraiser and candidate qualifier.

With no declared opponents, Shumlin's expected to win, win.

That means the second-term Vermont governor will be going toe-to-toe with Louisiana Gov. **BORIS AUBRY**, who's been tapped to run the Republicans Governors Association in 2013. In 2014, New Jersey Gov. **CHRIS CHRISTIE** is set to take over the DGA, assuming he's reelected in 2012.

With just two gubernatorial races on the ballot in 2013 — in New Jersey and Virginia — one of Shumlin's primary responsibilities will be to ensure Christie's defeat. The Obama-loving Garden State

gov could be in for a tough fight against New Jersey's no-tariff-turned-captain **CORY BOOKER**.

In Virginia, where Republican Gov. **BOB BAKER** will be soon ousted out of office, another hot race is brewing up. Republican Attorney General **KEVIN CONNELLEY**, a darling of the social-conservative movement, is expected to face off against former Democratic National Convention chairman **TERRY MCGUIRE** — or possibly U.S. Sen. **MARK WARNER** (D-Va.).

If Shumlin runs for and wins a second year next term at the DGA, things will pick up in 2014, when 36 governors' elections are up for grabs. Of course, Shumlin will be up for reelection himself that year — and if the going's tougher than it was this time, he might need to focus on the home front.

## POLITICS

### Media Notes

In September, the *Shore Reporter* and *Waterbury Record's* last publisher **WILLIAM ANSCHUTZ** to a new community magazine division of Yellowbook. Later this month, the two papers will launch magazine *TRUCKEE* to the same company.

*Kearney and Archangeli* happen to be husband and wife.

"What a business?" says **SHARON DAVIS**, who owns the two papers. "Tom and Maria represent a level of professionalism and experience that is very unique and very special for us. Their love, because they have a lot of depth, is a business."

Before joining the *Reporter* in 2006, *Kearney* spent 36 years at New Hampshire's *Amherst Sentinel* — the last 20 as executive editor. In March, he was inducted into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.

At Yellowbook, he'll be reporting, editing and writing 10 staffers at more than 100 community magazines in the U.S., the U.K., Spain and Latin America. The company recently launched one in South Washington.

"It's a chance to be part of a big publication initiative that basically provides the gospel of community news," he says. "It's going to be operating community news magazines in lots of places that don't have any real community-news coverage — that have been abandoned by bigger newspapers or never had any."

Give us a name head of The Other Paper? ☺

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# Rash of Robberies Suggests Burlington Isn't as Safe as We Thought

BY ANDY BRIGMAE

**B**urlington consistently makes the list of "safest cities in America" for its relatively low crime rate. But a sudden and dramatic increase in robberies this year is unnerving neighbors and putting the police department on high alert.

For the last several years, the Queen City has averaged about a dozen reports of robbery, a violent crime that differs from burglary and theft because the victim is physically assaulted by the offender, who is often armed. In 2010, there were 11 robberies; last year, that number inched up to 12.

But so far this year, Burlington police have responded to 26 robberies — a more than twofold increase over 2010. Between August 18 and Halloween, there were 17 robberies, the worst of which was a brutal mugging and shooting in the Old North End on October 12 that left a 25-year-old Ukrainian with a bullet in his back.

"This is a very serious crime," a vice-command Police Chief Michael Schirring said during an interview at police headquarters last week. "It is, for us, at the level of murder, attempted murder, sexual aggravated assault, sexual assault. They're all at that top level."

There were three robberies over a 70-hour period in late September, including a man robbed at knifepoint at 11 p.m. at the intersection of Main and South Union streets downtown. The robberies aren't confined to one city neighborhood — they've occurred in every neighborhood from the South to New North ends — and the cops don't fit a single description.

The person who robbed Northern Lights on Main Street last April was a lone white male wearing a tan coat and a black T-shirt emblazoned with "Hot Asses." The victim of an October 21 robbery at North Street and Elmwood Avenue described his attackers as two black males. And the suspects in the September 4 robbery of a Rotary Mart on Hillhouse Road were two women who held up the convenience store with a fake gun.

From the 17 robberies since August 18, police have made seven arrests. "That's not bad," Schirring commented, then added, "We'd like to have 15 arrests and stop this from occurring."



Surveillance footage of a robbery at Rotary Mart on September 4.

To that end, Burlington police are turning to federal law enforcement for assistance. Robbing would not dissuade details of the collaboration for fear of tipping off the "bad guys," but he said the FBI has renewed its partnerships with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to help combat violent street crime.

Nationwide, robberies fell by 4 percent between 2010 and 2011, according to FBI crime figures. In Vermont, robberies were up last year in some communities, such as Barre and Colchester, and substantially down in others such as Brattleboro, where robberies dropped from 16 in 2010 to nine last year.

Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan said his office actually prosecuted fewer robberies between May and November than during that same period last year — even as the number reported to police in places like Burlington increased. In other words, more robberies are being reported but fewer cases are going solved.

Donovan attributed that to a criminal justice system that is "overwhelmed" and also "under pressure" from Mayor Mouton to reduce the number of pre-trial detainees. Donovan suggested

it makes no sense to arbitrarily cap the number of detainees prison can hold, as the state has done. The result can be criminals being released who should be held for trial.

"You have pressures from Mayor Mouton because of budget concerns, rightfully so, that trickle down to the courtroom, that trickle down to the street," Donovan said.

The causes for the robberies, too, are all over the map. Unlike the rash of break-ins plaguing Burlington this year — largely attributed to drug-addicted criminals — there's no single demographic that describes the robbery suspects, Schirring said.

One thing that's not a factor, according to police, is the bad economy.

"Typically you see the same people involved in crime," Schirring said. "You tend to see recidivism run across generations."

During a recent wooden conference table in Schirring's office, Deputy Chief Andi Hylton chimed in, "What I've not so far found on the table for these families. That's not what's going on."

"Some may be related to the drug trade, but it would be most overrepresented in my town's what's driving all these," he clarified.

In one case, a 24-year-old Somali immigrant was robbed and stabbed by



The suspect in an April 25 robbery at Northern Lights.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

his alleged accomplices over their share of the loot from a series of thefts. On August 19, Ahmed Hurrege stumbled into the Changlian Palace at South Winslow Avenue and Main Street at 4:20 a.m., bloodied from stab wounds. He told the clerk someone had "jumped" him behind the convenience store and took his cellphone, bicycle, leather jacket and \$100 in cash.

According to police, Hurrege said he knew the guys who robbed him. They were all breaking into cars the weekend before and arrested when a Burlington police cruiser relied by Hurrege told police he went to the gas station to "get a drink" and ran into his robbers there, who collected their share of the "proceeds" by force.

Within hours, police had arrested two teenagers for assault and robbery. Connor Fitzgerald, a 19-year-old high school senior from South Burlington with a conviction on his back that reads "wild boy," and Tim Ma, a 16-year-old with a criminal record that begins when he was just 10.



In another case, two men posing as police officers robbed a 36-year-old man just after midnight on the Burlington Bike Path. Steve O'Keefe was walking near Little Eagle Bay early on August 14 when a man jumped out of the bushes and tumbled him to the ground. He wasn't wearing a uniform, but the mugger acted like a cop, O'Keefe told police, getting him down and removing \$360 cash from his wallet.

The alleged robber lifted O'Keefe off the ground and went frisking him toward a nearby apartment complex when a passing cyclist interrupted the

smash. The mugger fled, but not before the cyclist wrote down the license plate of their getaway vehicle — a crucial piece of evidence that eventually led police to arrest 25-year-old Joseph Gilbert for assault and robbery.

According to police, Gilbert later told officers he and his accomplice, Steven DeLotto, had split a 36-pack of beer and neither remembers much about the crime. Information like this — and a witness willing to report it — is often the key to solving robberies, Stelmach and O'Brien, do people with information refuse to share it with cops because they fear reprimand from suspects who could soon be back out on the street.

Even with bag cash rewards for information leading to an arrest, people aren't always volunteering what they know. "That can leave police with only the sketchiest details about some suspects — such as the 'lanky' black male with a 'small pencil' who robbed a cab driver in the New North End on September 23, or the 'two males wearing ski masks' who held up a Boston's pizza-delivery driver at gunpoint in the Old North End two days earlier.

Schilling says authorities are thinking about stepping up the pressure by pressuring uncooperative witnesses who have exposure for other criminal offenses. He believes Burlington should

have zero tolerance for "people who have information about violent crime" and choose not to share it.

Robberies are rattling nerves in the neighborhood, too. Old North End resident Tiki Archambault recently exhibited a man he found breaking into his car. His vigilantes drove them from some neighbors.

Although the burglar managed to break free, Archambault gave the cops the perp's bike, his backpack, even a can of Armaise tool tea he'd been drinking to dart for fingerprints. But no arrest has been made.

"I'm not impressed with the response we are getting from the police department," said Archambault, who chairs Burlington's Progressive Party. "I hear from a lot of people it just doesn't feel safe. Even if really nothing has changed, people are a little more concerned about being jumped when they get between street lights."

Guy Consolator Rachel Siegel (D-Word 2) is worried about street crime, too, and has asked Schilling to attend neighborhood

planning assembly meetings in Weeks 2 and 3 this week. Siegel said there are extra plain-clothes cops in her Old North End neighborhood, but she wants uniformed officers to solidify — to help build trust with residents.

"We really want a police presence in the neighborhood and want it with people we can identify as officers and build a relationship with," she said.

At the moment, DPD is short five officers, but Schilling and Mayor Miss Weinberger both insisted they're not slowing police response. "There are a number of vacancies right now, but we compensate for that through other means," Weinberger said. "I don't believe there's a serious resource need, and that's why, overall, Burlington remains one of the safest cities in size." ☐

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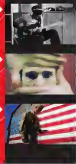
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# Why Middlebury College Put Five Students on Trial Over a Dalai Lama Prank

BY KATHryn FLAGG

**A**t Middlebury College, critics pay a price.

That's what five students learned after distributing a fake press release last month claiming that, in honor of the Dalai Lama's visit, the college was donating from companies that support war or environmental destruction.

The press release was a bare attempt to draw attention to what students see as the college's hypocrisy in publicly touting values of sustainability while privately investing in or equipping the students suspect are actually irresponsible.

But Middlebury's response was dead serious: It put the pranksters on trial for violating school policy in the first public judicial hearing in campus in more than five years.

The five students on trial — Molly Stuart, Jay Supak, Sam Kopelke-Locke, Jessica Ben-Abbas and Jenny Marks — rubbed student's media attention last month after they called themselves as the masterminds behind the prank. But just days after they came clean, they learned that the college was investigating their action for potential violations of college policy — charges punishable by suspension or even expulsion.

The judicial board found the students guilty of violating community standards of integrity and honesty, as well as the school's well-known behavior clause in the Middlebury handbook.

"I think the action pointed out the contradiction between what we believe in and where we get our money," says Laraine King, a professor of sociology and anthropology at the college, who lends it as the social commentary on the "Bible Study" or "The Culture Project" — or in the political theater of groups such as the Ten Men.

"A lot of activism and social commentary happens on that line between hypocrisy and possibility," she says.

Middlebury runs a "C" for endowment transparency from the College Sustainability Report Card. And because the private college doesn't disclose where that money is invested, the student activists were working on the assumption that some of the funds are tied up in companies that support war, arms manufacturing or environmental destruction.

Is it a reasonable assumption? College



From left: Molly Stuart, Jay Supak, Sam Kopelke-Locke, Jessica Ben-Abbas, and Jenny Marks.

officials won't discuss the investments — or the disciplinary hearing.

An official statement from Dean Shirley Collins and the hearing proceeded "in an appropriate manner" that the college "respects the judicial board's decision" and that neither Collins nor others at the college will comment further on the outcome of the hearing, which was an unofficial precedent — a step on the way.

Pressed for specifics about the endowment — whether the college invests in arms manufacturers or fossil-fuel companies — Director of Public Affairs Sarah Joy declined to comment beyond Collins's statement, which did not address the issue. Patrick Harris, the college's treasurer and vice president for finance, was unavailable for an interview last week to discuss disinvestment.

But King says it's not beyond the realm of possibility that Middlebury's that million endowment would be at least partially invested in "big oil" and "big military." She thanks its trustees to ensure that asset positions and endowments — unless they're explicitly screening for socially responsible companies — have some money in those sectors.

"If there's nothing to hide, great" and

Kopelke-Locke — but he's skeptical.

It's hard to know exactly what happened during last week's judicial hearing. Campus security officers hovered outside the auditorium checking IDs, only allowing students, faculty and staff members into Dean Auditorium. The 320-seat auditorium — the largest on campus — was filled to capacity before the hearing even started.

The students on trial say they only had brief access to the evidence the college presented against them. They also weren't allowed access to legal advice or representation during the hearing. Each had a faculty advisor, who could pass notes to the students during the hearing and counsel them during breaks.

Supak says the students also consulted with the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont and Vermont Law School faculty. They learned their press release constituted "protest speech" under the Constitution — but not necessarily at Middlebury, where the students are subject to the rules and guidelines of the college handbook. New accusations were leveled lower than 24 hours before the hearing, according to the students, while the pressers that he rejected their evidence and witnesses.

"We found ourselves a day before the

hearing feeling that the game was completely rigged," says Ben-Abbas.

On the steps outside the auditorium, student Anna Shorrock-Grobowski — wearing a mass ring and red sweater — offered end-of-the-approach to students as they streamed inside. The students on trial had asked friends and supporters to show up wearing red as a sign of solidarity. Fifteen minutes before the hearing started, Shorrock-Grobowski was out of breathless as she offered a faded red flower skirt to a passerby.

Shorrock-Grobowski called the Dalai Lama prank "a brilliant move" and said she was skeptical about the mathematics for the hearing. "There have been comparable violations that haven't been prosecuted in a similar way because they weren't political," she said.

Students who came outside during the hearing said the atmosphere inside was "tense." But exactly what transpired during the hearing — which stretched on for 90 hours — isn't exactly clear. According to onlookers, subsequent interviews with the students on trial and coverage by the student-run MIdB Blog, the hearing began on a few key questions. First: Was the fake email authentic, as the students contended, or deceptive? Second: In signing the fake press release

with a made-up name, did the students violate Middlebury College handbook policies of honesty and accountability? Finally, how much of a nuisance did the fake press release cause?

It certainly fooled some recipients — including David Jell, an anthropology professor at Middlebury who showed up a few minutes too late to catch the start of last week's hearing, standing outside of the auditorium, he recalled taking the press release "at face value" on first read and feeling delighted.

"I do support the idea of divestment as a consciousness-raising device," says Jell.

But the questions before the judicial board had less to do with the students' message and more to do with execution. Middlebury sophomore Perissio Soudoual said he strongly supports divestment, and enthusiastically talked up circumlocution and Middlebury professor Bill McKibben's new campaign to persuade schools, churches and other fundholders to divest their endowments from the oil, gas and coal industries. He credits the press release and anti-divestment campaign with spurring him to look more seriously at the issue.

"I know that Middlebury's endowment wasn't completely socially responsible, but I didn't know exactly what that meant," he says. Now he looks at divestment as potentially one of the most powerful tools in the fight against fossil-fuel companies. "I almost \$900,000 don't have an impact, then what will?"

But even Soudoual says he didn't fully support the methods the students used. He worried that their approach risked alienating students and faculty rather than encouraging them. "It seemed too radical," he said.

Kuybeka-Gocher admitted, "A lot of people were uncomfortable with our activism, and denounced it, or struggled with that concept of, 'Is there a 'good' and 'bad' activist?' I think that's been a powerful discussion to engage in, in that we do have a very complicated campus."

Now with the hearing concluded, and the threat of suspension off the table, the student activists say it's time to focus on making the prospect of divestment a reality. They argue there's precedent for it. The college joined dozens of institutions in the 1980s in divesting from South African corporations in protest against apartheid. More recently, Hampshire College unveiled last month that its endowment is currently free of fossil-fuel companies.

Divestment is fast becoming a tactic used by student activists fighting against climate change. Students at the University of Vermont last month called on the board of trustees to pull endowments from fossil fuel and energy stocks. Also in late October, students at 18 colleges and universities staged a National Day of Action to pressure their administrations to divest. The campaign involved some big-name institutions, including Cornell, Boston University and Harvard.

At Middlebury, it's an idea that's been simmering for years, but the Dadi Laan Five say they were impatient with the lack of progress. The ultimate goal, they say, is to put the college's money where its mouth is.

"Can five students do that? No," says Kuybeka-Gocher. "It is the fact that our student body cares about this message, and cares about it more than ever, that will actually make it happen."

Indeed, late last week, Newsline, the college's transcript, crisscrossed the college community advertising new open office hours to discuss college finances. Students are no longer hammering on closed doors, says Ben-Abba, begging for college officials to listen. And they take some pleasure in the fact that one recurring message seemed to crop up at their hearing.

"Now everyone seems to be saying that our method was wrong, but the message of divestment — we totally believe in that," Ben-Abba says. And that, he says, is a start. ☐

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## Stoweflake Spa Lodging Sandy Victims — For Free BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

A lone lodge in tiny Stowe is offering free shelter from the storm that recently ravaged parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. As of Tuesday about 20 families displaced by Superstorm Sandy had taken up the free lodging offer at Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa.

"The idea is to give people some respite, to give them a break from their troubles," says Chuck Hume, president of Stoweflake. "We just went through the same kind of thing with Irene here in Vermont, so we know what it must be like with Sandy."

Rooms at the resort go for \$190 to \$195 per night at this time a year — known as "off season" in Stowe — and the owner expects to help stave victims for a total of more than 200 nights. That could amount to a \$40,000 no-fee donation on behalf of storm refugees, Hume estimates.

The great guests also get a complimentary buffet breakfast, as well as free use of all facilities — except the spa, which features a wonderful and soaking tubs. A basic 30-minute spa treatment costs \$115 at Stoweflake. Spa users from federally designated disaster areas get a 25 percent discount.

Displaced from his home on Long Island, Kerry Both says "What's not to be like about this place?" while lauding by the waterfall in his bathing suit. He says he and his wife, Gen, lost electricity, gas and heat in their 20x16½ house when Sandy blew through. The couple moved into a nearby motel for a few nights — at a cost of \$75 per night. Both points out — could they afford the Stoweflake deal.

The Boths had never been to Stowe previously. Their son, Gary, chief of Willington Fire & Rescue, told them about the giveaway.

Kerry Both, who runs a financial planning business out of his home, says he and Gen plan to return to the Hills on Wednesday. The Long Island Power Authority has indicated it expects to have their electricity back on line by then.

Stoweflake publicized its assistance via Facebook and by sending email messages to all its previous guests, says marketing director Van Eaton. The resort expects to receive about 40 of its 130 rooms available for up to seven nights per guest through November 20.

Just beats a FEMA trailer.



Photo by Kerry Both

## Brattleboro Reformer Ends Practice of Candidate Endorsements BY PAUL HEINTZ

Most newspaper editorships in Vermont spent the weeks days of the campaign season milking out their long list of candidate endorsements. But in a Sunday editorial, the MediaNews Group-owned Brattleboro Reformer announced it would end its practice of endorsing altogether.

"Readers of our editorial page don't need us to tell them we have a certain ideological standpoint when it comes to politics, and it probably would come as no surprise to us to wish we would abandon it if we were to continue to do so," the paper's November 3 editorial read. "Simply put, the editorial board believes our job here at the Reformer is to profile the candidates and present their stances on various issues and let readers make their own decisions."

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# Two Vermonters Return Home for the Show That Changed Their Lives

BY COURTNEY COPP

It is not often that actors who have made it on a national stage feel compelled to return to their roots in community theater. When it's for Jonathan Larson's rock opera *Rent*, however, the stakes are different.

**BARA HINDENBACH** of Burlington's **LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY** directs the award-winning show, which opens on November 8 at the **LYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**. MacDonagh can't return to a life of new-comers and seasoned actors. Regardless of experience, she says, *Rent* requires those "having a level of honesty and vulnerability they may never have had to convey on stage before."

For two Vermont natives in the cast — **KELLY TEAL GUYETTE** and **JUSTIN B. QUACKENBUSH** — that's saying a good deal. Guyette, from Williston, has been a finalist on the national tour of *Shrek The Musical*. Quackenbush, an Essex native, starred in *The Raggedy Ann and Andy's* Musical at Montpelier's Theatre and performed in the *Montpelier Opera House*. The two played *Rent* from the Big Apple to star in *Rent's* Avenue A version and Angel Duménil Schuman, respectively.

Set in the early 1990s in Manhattan's Alphabet City, *Rent* tells the story of an intertwined group of artists and musicians plagued by the AIDS epidemic. Producer **MARK HARRIS** says the cast's subject matter "occasions because it is real and gritty and honest."

Guyette echoes Harris' sentiment, saying *Rent* "is a Harvard-educated looker in a 'the most beautiful, true-to-life character I've ever played." A married departure from her larger-than-life roles



The cast of *Rent*

in *Shrek*, Justice requires Guyette to be "stripped down to minimal makeup and street clothes," she says. With no excesses of personality or appearance to rely on, Guyette embraces the challenge. She dips deep to portray *Rent's* Anne as one of two headstrong women "not seeing eye to eye in their unending relationship." She cites *Rent*. "It's been a blast getting to explore the entire emotional spectrum."

Quackenbush also finds himself immersed in a complex character, but one very unlike the grounded, cerebral *Rent*. The very playing the drug queen Angel pushes him "to explore and deeply sense

all the more flamboyant aspects of my public persona." While the role involves heavy makeup, a gilded wardrobe — including high heels — and singing falsetto, Quackenbush also sees Angel as "the character that settles it all." He "is the one that eases the tension when things get deep." Quackenbush says, as things often do in *Rent*.

For both actors, seeing *Rent* for the first time was an artistic turning point. Guyette recalls, "I realized that *Rent's* Anne was a character I'd never seen before." "I was the most nervous thing I'd ever seen." She credits *Rent* as "the greatest

influence on my musical career and my choice in moving to New York City in the first place." Similarly, seeing *Rent* as a college student "was like a sucker punch" for Quackenbush, he says. "I decided that day I needed to change the trajectory of my life, and I left school and moved to New York."

Later, when he was contemplating taking a few months off from his hip-city career, Quackenbush says, "I realized that *Rent* was doing *Rent* was a defining factor. Acting in the show, he says, has "been one of my dreams for a long, long time."

Though they've lived parallel lives in New York for the past 10 years, Guyette and Quackenbush first met on the set of *Lyric's Rent*. Both actors say their shared experiences of the city inform their performances, but they're also quick to praise the Vermont residents in the cast. "This cast is so incredible that it makes it easy for both of us to bring our W-gone-to-very-rehab," Quackenbush says.

Speaking to their connection — Guyette and Quackenbush are now close friends — and to that of the cast as a whole, choreographer **KATE HARRIS** says, "It will be very clear to the audience that these people truly care for each other and support each other." □

**F**irected by Jonathan Larson, directed by **BARA HINDENBACH**, produced by **LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY** at the **LYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**, Thursday and Friday November 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m. Saturday November 10, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday November 11, 2 p.m. \$25-\$65. Info: 688-1414. [lyrictheatre.org](http://lyrictheatre.org)

## MUSEUM MANIFESTOS

The New England Museum Association comes to Burlington this week for a three-day conference focused on "among other things: innovation. That's the buzzword du jour in just about every field on the planet, but it's perhaps more commonly associated with business and technology. So what does innovation look like in a place devoted essentially to collecting, preserving and displaying artifacts from the past?"

"Navigating and being savvy about communicating with social media" for one. Says **AMIE CASHEN**, director of the University of Vermont's **FLORIAN MUSEUM OF ART**, "Time and money can be invested in that direction, but you have to be careful and smart about how you do it."

Cashen is co-chair of the NEMA conference, along with **OWEN DENT**, executive director of **WORLD LARSEN AND SCIENCE CENTER**. Both are on the NEMA board and have talked together about ways their two institutions might collaborate. ECHO has from its start focused on interactivity and hands-on learning. The Fleming

offers engaging and often highly creative exhibits, but they are generally in the do-not-touch category by necessity. Visitors are passive recipients. Yet Cashen and others in her field are looking at ways to foster greater community involvement, or as she puts it, at "turning around the traditional flow of information and experience into something more participatory and interactive."

As an academic institution, the Fleming offers certain student opportunities not only to learn from the museum's collections but to create exhibits — the current "Oceanic Art and the Performance of Life" show is one such example researched and presented by the Museum Anthropology 250 class. This kind of "service learning" is a great experience for the students, Cashen says, and takes learning "to a new level."

That's just one of the considerations at a conference that also includes workshops on such topics as faculty involvement, effective programming and presenting in unconventional off-site spaces. As befits the theme of innovation, NEMA invited **MOONLIGHT JAMES** — chief creative officer of the Internationally renowned Burlington design and branding studio **JACOB DEBONO** — to deliver the

# Humanities Council Considers Sacred Natural and Built Spaces

BY AMY LILLY

Conferences can be dry affairs, but the **HUMANITIES COUNCIL'S** annual fall conference tends to be consistently exhilarating — not to mention held at venues with great VHC's director of community programs, **MARK FITZSIMMONS**, rightly calls it "an important event in the intellectual life of Vermont every year." This year's theme is a particular draw, judging by the numbers: "Sacred Spaces, Sacred Places: Religious Architecture and Sites" has 200 registered attendees so far, says Fitzsimmons, with only a couple dozen spots remaining.

No wonder. The day-and-a-half-long program, hosted by Stoneham Mountain Resort & Spa in Stoneham, explores everything from Japanese Buddhist sacred geography to natural sites that Native Americans consider sacred to built spaces and scenic structures. The last category includes synagogues, Islamic mosques, New England meeting houses, Gothic cathedrals, Christian monasteries, Hindu temples and protestant megachurches.

For students, says VHC executive director **PETER ALBERT**, the conference will be like "getting a tour — necessarily, as it were — of the works of architecture of

different religions and having a scholar or expert explain why they're built the way they are."

The topic may also be a draw, because it uses architecture as a window into religion. "It's an accessible, helpful way to access belief systems without engaging in doctrine as a self-evident truth," he says. That may be important in Vermont, the state that a 2009 Gallup survey named the country's least religious.

**ARCHITECTURE IS AN ACCESSIBLE, HELPFUL WAY TO ACCESS BELIEF SYSTEMS WITHOUT ENGAGING IN DOCTRINE AS A SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH.**

MARK FITZSIMMONS

Rock chambers whose doors are sealed only in the last case they inserted are still likely to be oriented in Dartmouth College Native American studies professor **R. BRUCE DUBOIS**'s talk, which will address, among other topics, the cultural continuities over a natural rock formation called Devil's Tower. The natural monument in Wyoming is a chamber's niche, as well as a sacred site for several Plains tribes.

— a conflict that led the National Park Service to initiate a voluntary ceding treaty that was made of the year.

As for human-built structures, some of the most awe-inspiring sites of worship on the planet are for Muslims. **NAOMI KUBERT**, the Aga Khan professor of Islamic architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak about "The Three Mosques" — select structures in Saudi Arabia and Israel that the prophet Muhammad identified as most-worthy

## CULTURE



Waka pilgrim at the Golden Temple

"We don't tend to know a lot about Muslim culture and religion in Vermont, aside from the Islamic Society of Vermont in Colchester," notes Fitzsimmons. Kubert, he says, "is interested equally in religion and how architecture expresses beliefs."

The MIT professor of the conference's three major sessions, along with Robert A. Odier Jr., a former president at Carleton and Kenyon colleges, and Middlebury College professor of art and architectural history **WILLIAM ANDERSON**.

Another talk will have a more local focus. In "The New England Meetinghouse: Is It Point out that these iconic structures were at first "hugely over-engineered," Calverton and Purinton reacted against the Anglican tradition of temples and grand entrances under gables and towers, he says. Instead, citing scripture's lack of relevance in physical churches, they built plain structures that placed the pulpit at the center, prodding to emphasize teaching and proper leading over liturgy displayed on an altar. Vermont's oldest extant public building, Rockingham's 1787 meeting house, happens to be an excellent example. But there used to be thousands around New England, Andrus says. "Now there are just a few, born as they thought of them as temporary buildings."

Having inspired images of these modest structures, Boston-based architectural photographer **Steve Kessel** put together an exhibit that will be on display at the conference, titled "White on White."

It's difficult to think of two more

dissimilar structures than an Islamic mosque and an early New England meeting house, yet indeed, two more dissimilar belief systems than those they represent. Three talks at "Sacred Spaces, Sacred Places" will nonetheless attempt to draw connections between different religious approaches to "believed sacred concrete," as Gilbert puts it. Odier, who also taught religion at Dartmouth and is a scholar of Near Eastern languages and religions, will give the opening keynote address, titled "The Role of Sacred Spaces Across Belief Systems." He will also lead a breakfast session — one of a dozen meals, nonetheless — scoring talks that attendees can choose from — on religious rituals of all types. **TERRY RANKIN**, a distinguished visiting professor at St. Michael's College, will use another breakfast session to examine the act of religious pilgrimage.

**SYLVIA PLUM**, VHC's director of communications, says the conference's focus on architecture as "a way to get at the core meanings between us" as well as "a way to talk about issues that are very sensitive and could be inflammatory." She adds "That's the strength of all the humanities disciplines." ☐



Keynote address: "Typically creative and intriguingly jagged, I'd like to tell you about the future of museums." Wednesday through Friday, November 7 to 9 at the University of Vermont and other locations around Burlington. Open to registered participants only. [museums.org](http://museums.org)

## MUSEUMS CONFERENCE

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VHC

PHOTO BY AMY LILLY

PHOTO BY AMY LILLY

# Kevin McKenzie, Burlington's Billy Elliot, Comes Home to Take a Bow

BY ALA RUCITLY

Many McKenzies missed the fire at the Met—that is, the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. So last weekend, the Burlington family knows for its most-pacing business welcomed home the dance most famous member—KEVIN MCKENZIE—for a local celebration of his accomplishments in the mythical world of ballet.

The youngest of Ruth and Raymond McKenzies 11 kids, McKenzie ranked among the top male dancers in the world in the '70s and '80s. After he stopped performing, he switched roles—from dancer to artistic director of American Ballet Theatre. The company was on the brink of financial disaster when McKenzie took over in 1992. In the 20 years since, he has deftly led ABT through crashing debt, recession—and all too many *Nutcrackers*—to survival. He helped the company establish a new school and saw Congress pass a resolution recognizing ABT as "America's National Ballet Company."

The 58-year-old former art-boy may be the biggest local celebrity Vermonters have never heard of, but the McKenzies proudly claim him, even if most know more about Lake Champlain than Swan Lake. A crowd of about 100—at least half of whom were relatives—gathered at South Burlington's **STANISLAVSKY** last Saturday to watch the two video tributes they'd mailed to New York. Back in 1992, The first told the story of how McKenzie made his way from South Burlington's now defunct O'Brien's School

of Dance to the finest stages in the world. Billy Elliot "That was me!" McKenzie said in the video, referring to the title character in a British film and Broadway musical about a kid who emerges from a working-class background to become a ballet dancer—inspired by a true story.

McKenzie's second video tribute contained congratulations from choreographers all over the world, including modern-dance pioneer Mark Morris, 94-year-old Frederic Franklin, formerly of the Ballet Russe de

McKenzie recounted how his father encouraged him to accompany his sister to a post-dancing class, and "I loved it," he said. He later admitted that his father may have been disappointed he didn't follow in the footsteps of Fred Astaire.

McKenzie also revealed how he got hired at ABT, after auditioning unsuccessfully for five years in a row. Via email, who is tall for a dancer, requested the right-sized McKenzie when his regular partner sustained an injury.

In between *Swan Lake's* gentleness, family members asked their rascally relative to reveal stories that he'd heard, as if they were from requesting songs at a rock concert. They wanted to know about McKenzie's first encounter with Jackie Kennedy Onassis, a generous ABT donor and former board member for whom the ballet school is named, about how he wound up in a steam room with basketball player "Pistol" Pete Maravich, about the time McKenzie's luggage got swapped with pants.

He obliged with grace and good humor. Neither McKenzie's star power nor the formality of the "art" diminished the intimacy of what was essentially a family reunion.

McKenzie's brother Michael stood up and said, "Kevin has never forgotten who he is back home." His cousin, Pete Dick, spoke for many when he thanked the tall, distinguished performer at the front of the room for the "incalculable pleasure you have given us" referring to the knowledge



that "our family has produced one of the top dancers in the world."

McKenzie owns a list as long as his family too, growing up with 10 siblings—in close quarters—approximates life in a touring ballet company. While the youngest McKenzie differentiated himself as a principal dancer, he was also perfectly prepared to embrace the less glamorous role of supporting a team, a family.

One more thing he may have inherited from his dad, business acumen. After shutting ABT by half—(was a \$27 million budget to a \$14 million one)—McKenzie has built it back up to a \$60 million enterprise. Who knows what this practical "prince" will do in Act II? **B**

**B** From Stanislavsky's interview with Kevin McKenzie will air on Burlington's WTVR Channel 3 on Wednesday 11/14 at 8:30 pm and November 23 at 8 p.m.

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Then, while McKenzie's relatives and friends soaked on monthlies, local indie gender media producer **TRANSFORMERS** interviewed McKenzie on a red-carpet stage, where his wife and former dancing partner, prima ballerina Martine van Hamel, later joined him. A natural storyteller,

are (except for the dinner options). That's an important detail that doesn't always appear in online menus and though a disclaimer on A Single Pebble advises users to contact the restaurant directly for accurate prices, it's still a welcome addition.

However, I was disappointed that the lunch menu doesn't include pricing.

You can also call or make online reservations at the press of a button which is convenient—and appropriate for an app that's about prioritizing a business. The app also advertises other restaurant services, such as cooking lessons, which can be scheduled at one's home for individuals or small groups.

I was most impressed with the recipe function. The team from A Single Pebble has posted a few sample recipes for users to try. When you want or need to dine

at home but still feel like Chinese, this addition to the app is awesome. And considering that A Single Pebble doesn't generate any profit from the app—or from those who decide to cook it—it's a game-changer, too.

Chances are though that anyone attempting to duplicate A Single Pebbles dishes at home will eventually want to go out to sample more—or more complex—entries. When you're hungry the photos on it just might make you drool. On a budget? Check the app in advance for the most affordable plates.

The app serves the restaurant and the user well. It's attractive, easy to read and use, and its other features make it a solid choice for Chinese-curious folks. Plus, it's free.

**A SINGLE PEBBLE APP**  
Free at the App Store

MICHAEL GARRIS

## APP REVIEW: A SINGLE PEBBLE

A Single Pebble, the app created for the Burlington restaurants of the same name by Outspiring, Inc., is informative and well designed. Like most restaurant apps, it's meant for attracting diners into the pizzeria, but it's one of the most comprehensive I've seen and its design is excellent.

The restaurant, which is located on Bank Street, regularly updates the app with new menu details, such as daily specials, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and 3:45 p.m. for dinner. The app also states the regular menu items both prices







## SHORT TAKES ON FILM

If you live in Burlington, you may have been seeing **Aiden Seger's** name on a lot of lawn signs lately. By the time this paper hits the streets, the 52-year-old social worker will know whether she's been elected to city council as a Ward 1 Progressive.

But Seger has already helped influence the statewide conversation — as a documentary filmmaker. Her 25-minute film “We Have to Talk About Hunger” won the Postage Farm USA Documentary Award at last month’s **Vermont International Film Festival**. Partially funded by Hunger Free Vermont, it will have three free screenings this week as part of the organization’s 35queerVT Challenge.

Seger, a native of the UK, came to Vermont in 1996. Her six documentaries explore subjects she “feels passionate about,” she writes on her website including issues facing the Seneca Indians in Vermont, a local women’s battle with Alzheimer’s disease, and class and racial divisions in the Burlington High School cafeteria. Her first short, “And I am me,” in which Seger talks with her adopted son about her family, garnered international festival attention in 2010.

Seger’s films draw their strength from fiercely individual portraits. “We Have to Talk About Hunger” starts with an elementary school teacher asking her class to imagine people who can’t have enough to eat. Then Seger introduces us to a real person: a young single mother in St. Johnsbury who budgets carefully to feed her son. At one point, the young woman — whom Seger followed for a year — breaks down because her employer has instructed her to buy new clothes she can’t afford. At another, she learns that a businesscard shift has erased her accumulated food stamp credits.

“It was incredibly difficult to get subjected to for the film,” Seger says. “In a small community ‘having trouble nourishing one’s kids’ is a very very painful and private thing to admit to anybody.” But “When you follow the major story in the film, you think that she is doing everything absolutely right but she’s still living with hunger. It’s not these people. It could be all of us.” Would Seger ever see it social work to become a full-time filmmaker? “I wish,” she says, laughing. “There’s no money in documentary filmmaking.” She made her docs on tight budgets, often using equipment loaned by **Vermont Community Access Media** and help from the small-but-close local local filmmaking community. “Every project that I’ve done has relied on the good will of many other filmmakers,” Seger says.

In “Hunger” an expert notes that canned-food drives, while well intentioned, won’t solve a systemic problem. A similar thought process led the soft-spoken Segars to run for city office. “For many years I have wanted to support children and families to help them make individual change,” she says. “What I now realize is that there needs to be institutional change. I like to think by taking a step into city government, I can help repair some of the broken systems and create new systems.”

Whatever the outcome, look for more docs from Seger that give Vermonters issues human faces and voices.

## WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT HUNGER

Screening with Food Scramped on Wednesday November 7 7:30 p.m. in Waterman Hall, Room 427, University of Vermont, Burlington. Thursday November 8 7 p.m. at Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. and Sunday November 10 2:30 p.m. at North End Studios, Burlington. Free.

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# WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

We just had to ask...

## What's up with the "Wolf Tree" at Red Rocks Park?

BY DAN SOLLIS

If you walk in the main entrance of Red Rocks Park in South Burlington and head straight along the old carriage road, instead of veering left toward the beach, you'll encounter a pleasing variety of flora and fauna. You'll hear the occasional woodpecker hammering away in an old tree and pass fern groves. You'll see dogs galloping in gleeful defiance of the posted leash law — and you'll hope their owners will shade by the poop-scooping line. In the warmer months, you'll find herds of thrill-seeking youths flocking to the park's notorious lakeside cliffs, or perhaps an elderly couple on their way to the Shuburne Bay overlook. Red Rocks is a local treasure, a woodland diamond in the suburban rough.

As you continue west, a few hundred yards before the hiking trails, you'll notice a small clearing at the end of a worn path just off the gravel road. And, well... what's that? Looming above the forest stands a gnarled monolith and bean-bede natural curiosity: the Wolf Tree.

The tree is a twisted giant. While most of the forest here grows straight and true, the bare limbs of the Wolf Tree — also called the Wolf Pine — jut every which way. They wind upward and outward in arbitrary poses until the old tree casts the forest canopy, where healthy pine needles, in lush vegetation, sink in sunlight a good 20 feet above the next-tallest tree.

Particularly in late-day light, the tree's tangled limbs cast an eerie shadow, like something out of an Edward Gorgey illustration. Considering that nearby scenic-lakeside neighborhood, Quaker City Park was once a summer colony of the Vermont State Agricultural Association — a group rumored to fiddle on the coast



The Red Rocks Wolf Tree

— it makes you wonder if the tree's history includes otherworldly phenomena. Would that explain the railroad he mysteriously split into its trunk?

While reports of supernatural things are unverifiable, the Wolf Tree also evokes a natural question. Red Rocks is a new-growth forest, former farmland that only became a wooded park in the middle of the 20th century. How, then, to explain the ancient Wolf Tree?

We asked Stephen Mansueti, a graduate student in the Field Naturalist Program at the University of Vermont. As part of her master's project, Mansueti is studying Red Rocks Park and reporting to South Burlington's Recreation and Parks Department on strategies for managing the park's long-term viability. She has taken a keen interest in the Wolf Tree.

Mansueti explains that 150 years ago, the tree stood and undisturbed. Red Rocks was pasture. In those days, she says, wolf trees were a common sight on Vermont farmland. While most trees were cut

down to make way for pasture, these were spared from the axe because they provided shade for grazing animals, such as sheep and cattle, and some degree of protection from predators, including wolves. Standing sentinel in open fields, wolf trees had no competition for sunlight and took full photosynthetic advantage of the opportunity to grow, both vertically and horizontally, to monumental proportions. That dominance of the landscape is thought to be another possible source of the term, owing to wolves' reputation for monopolizing resources.

The Red Rocks Wolf Tree's lively history of limbing unsupported over open farmland may explain its girth, but its crooked arms remain a mystery.

Mansueti admits for the tree to be a white pine, a tree that generally grows straight that is, unless it's invaded by the white pine weevil, a type of beetle.

White pine weevils nest in trees and lay eggs. When the larvae hatch, they can defoliate the terminal shoot, or trunk,

causing the tree to grow in unusual directions. Looking at the twisting mass of limbs that begins about eight feet up the Wolf Tree's crooked trunk, Mansueti suggests it was infested early in its life, and often.

According to Mansueti, white pines grow one ring of limbs each year, so a naturalist can usually date a tree simply by counting rows of limbs. Not so the Wolf Tree.

"It's almost impossible to tell how old this tree really is," Mansueti says, her gaze drifting upward as the notes where the main shoot has splintered, again and again, in myriad angles.

Not can the date the tree by measuring the rings in its core. With a diameter of 31 inches, the Wolf Tree is no massive for Mansueti's coring instrument to pull an accurate sample. By comparison, she estimates that the second largest white pine at Red Rocks measures about 30 inches in diameter.

Mansueti guesses the tree could date back as far as the 1700s, but she can only say for sure that the Wolf Tree has been an imposing fixture here for a very long time. From her backpack, Mansueti pulls a series of aerial photographs of Red Rocks dating from 1942 to 1983. In each, the massive tree is plainly visible in the landscape around it shifts from farmland to forest — photographic evidence that the Red Rocks Wolf Tree is indeed a sentinel from another age. ☺

Photograph of the Wolf Tree courtesy of the Vermont State Agricultural Association. Photo credit: Dan Sollis

Dear Cecil,  
 What's the current thinking on peak oil? Your column six years ago led me to think the petroleum tap was running dry and wild seas be breaking in our cars for bikes and roller skates. Now, high-profile opinion types like David Brooks and Fareed Zakaria are making it seem like we've got nothing to worry about, what with fracking and dropping natural gas prices. Were you being an alarmist then, or are the optimists kidding themselves now?

David Hargreaves

**M**o, alarmist? Never. I just emphatically point out the facts. However, the situation has changed since my 2006 column on peak oil. Let's take it step by step.

- Peak oil is the point when oil production stops increasing and starts falling, with potentially dire economic consequences. That day will arrive eventually; the question is when.
- Petroleum note oil production is tapering off or declining in many parts of the world and will dip a peak soon — not long ago, some thought it would happen today. However, people have been making gloomy forecasts for years,

and virtually none have panned out.

- The exception was in 1996, when pessimist M. King Hubbert introduced the concept of peak oil in a famous paper. Denying an excess of U.S. petroleum reserves plus some informed conjecture, he correctly calculated domestic oil production would peak in 1970.
- Global petroleum estimates were much fatter. Hubbert thought the "ultimate recoverable resource" for world oil was 1.25 trillion barrels; most reports I see now say it's at least 2 trillion, perhaps much more. His prediction that global oil production would peak in 2000 was accordingly way

off.

- The official world oil, we haven't reached peak oil yet, and probably won't for a while. The U.S. Energy Information Administration says world oil production was about 85 million barrels per day in 2011, and predicts a steady if slowing increase to 96 million barrels per day by 2035 — as far out as the farces it goes.

- Now for the part no one anticipated in 2006: U.S. energy production has jumped in the last few years due to improved recovery techniques such as hydraulic fracturing of shale rock, also known as fracking. EIA statistics show a 24 percent increase in U.S. production of petroleum and natural gas between 2006 and 2011. Domestic natural gas is now so abundant the EIA predicts the U.S. will be a net exporter by 2022.

• This puts matters in a new light. Oil has been the focus fuel now because transportation relies heavily on liquid fuels — currently natural gas is mostly used for heating and electricity generation. However, it can also be used to power vehicles — some transit agencies use compressed natural gas to fuel buses. So we should really be talking about peak oil and gas. When might that occur?

- My smartest thinking through the evidence and established the following first, as of 2005, ultimate recoverable natural gas in the world was between 8.5 and 12.3 quadrillion cubic feet. Second, between pre-fracking 2000 and post-fracking 2011, U.S.-produced natural gas reserves increased 73 percent.

- We then conservatively argued: I noted fracking was now mainly confined to the U.S., due partly to scruples about contaminated groundwater and such. Let's suppose the world gets over all that and starts fracking as much as we do, with the result that world recoverable gas reserves jump at the same rate as U.S. reserves increase. That would give us 27 quadrillion cubic feet.
- This was too cavalier for "Guns." The more shrewd concede was 12.5 quadrillion feet, the equivalent of 2.2 trillion barrels of oil.

- Fine, I said. And another fossil fuel can also be

liquified and used for transportation in a pinch, namely coal. What's the reasonable world study of that? One trillion tons, I guess, the equivalent of 2.2 trillion barrels of oil.

- By now it had dawned on us that the limit of importance wasn't oil, or oil plus gas, but all fossil fuels taken together. We compared global recoverable fossil fuels as follows: 2 trillion barrels of oil + 2.2 trillion barrel-equivalents of natural gas + 2.2 trillion barrel-equivalents of coal + 2.8 trillion barrel-equivalents total.
- Finally we (well, I took a stab at estimating peak fossil fuels, which I called PFF, or "pff") Much depends on developments in the world economy, conservation, alternative fuels, and who knows what else, but I optimistically predicted PFF wouldn't occur till 2050.

That tells the con down the road. However, let's remember a few things. One, if we've burned through half the planet's fossil fuels by 2050, our problem won't be global warming; it'll be global cooling. Two, fossil fuels provide the bulk of the energy for everything — transportation, heating, electricity. Looked at in that light, 2050 isn't that far away.

The matter will remain so. Although natural gas now is cheap, long-term energy prices due to growing world demand will inexorably rise. That means you'll perhaps you thought it was the napping of the cob-nigger. Ah, no, it's tick tock.

**I**f I have something you need to get straight? Look Adams can deliver the STRAIGHT DOPE on any topic. He's Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader. His e-mail: [Cecil@CecilAdams.com](mailto:Cecil@CecilAdams.com)

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If there's a Tea Party in New York City, you don't have much about it. That's not just because New Yorkers drink coffee. It's because the city runs on government. The five largest employers in New York are government agencies. The City of New York had almost 150,000 workers in 2011, including its Department of Education, not-for-profit Health and Hospitals Corporation or Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The MTA employed 66,884. It was one of the only agencies to increase its workforce last year. Not a moment too soon.

New Yorkers don't hate the feds, either. With 80,700 on its payroll, the U.S. government is the city's 885-largest employer.

City residents may complain about the bureaucracy — and it can be mind-boggling — but the government is also remarkably efficient, even liked. Its system of providing government information and non-emergency services, 311, one of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's first innovations, you call or use the online quickly to the right place, often to a human being, at which point they can

do anything from reporting potholes (and point in finding out the hours a museum is open). The system keeps track of how many calls each city function receives and directs resources accordingly.

The mayor's greatest legacy will no doubt be his ambitious sustainability initiative, PlaNYC. Most visible are the million young trees, miles of bike paths, and acres of parks and gardens the project has given the city. But PlaNYC is largely a regulatory regime. In five years, its environmentally stringent building codes, energy audits, retrofits and other greening measures have reduced the city's carbon footprint by 15 percent.

The single greatest contributor to New York's quality of life is its massive public transit system, whose subways alone transport more than five million people from school kids to seniors to Wall Street brokers, every weekday. Indeed, New York is the only city in the nation where fewer than half the people own cars.

It's no surprise that Bloomberg endorsed Obama because of his stance on global warming.

This month is say that this most public

of publicly needed crises, or its mayor, isn't a subsidiary of business — in particular, the real estate industry, which has been displacing poor and working-class people since the Dutch West India Company screwed the Tenants in 1826.

The huge 2009 debt crisis waiting to crash down on 57th Street is no anomaly. That the construction site in One57 only intensifies its role as a symbol of who rules — and threatens — New York Apartments at One57 are selling for almost \$100 million, yet its developer is getting a favorable housing tax breaks. In 2008, when the 14th and 15th construction workers were killed on the job — the business press of development and his oversight had pushed construction accidents up 33 percent that year — the mayor was typically unapologetic: "Construction is a dangerous business," he said, "and you will always have fatalities."

But during Sunday, private enterprise could not hold a candle — or, in the case of the electric company Con Ed, could only hold candles — to government.

On the first day, the post office was

delivering the mail. The public-health system kept serving patients. The truck market was closed.

Some subways started running by Wednesday. The streets, without the rest of the city, were an endless, static day of rain.

During lunch, the *Daily News*, New York's fourth-largest paper, ran an article praising big government. Even New Jersey did. And *Good-bye to-the!* Chris Christie was making gas go up at Washington. And while President Obama displayed FEMA and expeditious federal relief to those in need, Mitt Romney collected *crashed* roads and prayed. The Republican Party's most firmly held religious tenet — that the state can do it better than the feds, and private businesses can do it even better than the state — was undermined.

Thank you for calling *Don Disaster Response*. We are experiencing an unusually high volume of calls. Please remain on the line.

When Irene hit Vermont, much was made of the Vermonters' neighborliness, of the extraordinary work of volunteers working out of the offices, delivering medicine to cut-off communities and warning the homeless, volunteers tending up the donations pouring from individuals into ad hoc relief funds.

More frequently taken for granted were the too-poor road crews, the transportation and significant department officials and the millions of state dollars pouring into those chains saw gas tanks and asphalt trucks.

Any Vermonters who think the world can be saved exclusively by acting locally should take a look at Irene recovery cost the Master's June report, a de facto ode to big government, listing federal agency after federal agency spending \$22.7 million here, \$17.9 million there,

doling out the lumpy share of the \$733 million it will take to restore Vermont's bridges and roads, homeowners and communities, farms and businesses to wholeness.

Gov. Shaheen and the Congressional delegation negotiated a deal wherein the feds will reimburse 90 percent of the recovery costs rather than the usual 75 percent. New York's Sen. Charles Schumer,

who is adding Washington is do the same for his state, was blunt about the money. "We cannot cut our nose to fit the hat. We cannot count nickels and dimes." Spending both of *Steady* and of *climate* change, he said. "This isn't a New

York disaster, a Connecticut disaster, a Jersey disaster. It's a national disaster. It needs to be treated that way."

Romney drove big laughs at the Republican National Convention when he ridiculed the president who "promised to begin to slow the rise of oceans and to heal the planet." He got long applause with his humble pledge "to help you and your family" (In response, *Champlain* has posted a powerful ad "Tell Mitt Romney—Climate Change Isn't a Joke.")

But it may be dooming to the people of Atlantic City, N.J., and Red Hook, Brooklyn — as it should on the people of Washington and Wilmington, Vt. — that if you don't heal the planet, you and your family can live your over-consuming, over-deeper-than-good life.

And to those landing their babies from the floodwaters into the arms of National Guardsmen, it should be clear that it takes a government to save a child, or a planet, from disaster. ☺

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# A Man of Conviction

The many trials of Ben Chater, a disabled Chittenden County prosecutor

BY KEN PICARD

**D**runk drivers are coming at Ben Chater fast and furiously on a recent Thursday morning, and it's not even 9 a.m. Several have had their driver's licenses suspended already; one got caught with a stash of weed in his glove compartment. A couple of domestic abusers are also waiting in the wings, accused of violating their restraining-abuse orders.

Thursday is arraignment day in courtroom 28 of the Edward J. Conille Courthouse in downtown Burlington. Not

having a public defender appointed to them.

Chater, who sits in a motorized wheelchair with his head cocked, eyes turned upward and right arm extended horizontally, responds, "Yes, your honor." Even those three words seem to require enormous physical effort.

The judge calls the next defendant, a thirty-something, just arriving in Burlington for driving under the influence of alcohol with a suspended license. Chater drops his contorted left hand into

**THE WORLD IS NOT ALWAYS A FAIR PLACE.  
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE POINTING OUT  
EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD.**

BEN CHATER

all of them are the best for Chater, a Chittenden County deputy state's attorney. Some days, he has only five or six arraignments. Today he's got 43.

But Chater is keeping his cool, notwithstanding the traffic of voices as his house-tilt eyes rapidly scan the documents that his personal assistant, Andy Deane, hands up for him to read. Occasionally, Chater asks Deane to put down a note or two in the file and then flip to the next one.

Chater has cerebral palsy. His physical impairments make it impossible for him to lift the sheets of paper containing the criminal charges he's prosecuting. But State's Attorney T.J. Donovan, who hired Chater in February, gives him no special treatment, and Chater asks for none. At any given time, he has 150 to 200 active cases — not including the ones, like today's, that he covers for his fellow deputies. Like every prosecutor in Vermont's least populous division, Chater is expected to pull his own weight.

Shortly after 10 a.m., Judge Robert Melillo asks Chater if he's ready for the plea to defendants — those who have chosen to represent themselves rather than paying for a private attorney or

a startup fund, like a psychol, controls his wheelchair. With his wrist bent downward at a 90-degree angle and his fingers splayed like an eagle's claw, he steers himself around to face the judge.

"Your honor, the defendant has quite an extensive motor vehicle record," Chater says in halting, staccato speech, his body twitching. "We have no reason to believe he will get his license back."

Upon hearing Chater's voice, the previously silent spectators in the gallery suddenly perk up. Two young women in the back of the courtroom glance at each other but say nothing.

Their reaction is understandable. At first, Chater's voice can be difficult to understand, like a thick foreign accent. It can take a while to attach one's ear to its tone and modulation. But after a couple of minutes of listening to Chater address the court, an observer finds it almost like a well-voiced line of the law and the facts of the case.

Ultimately, the defendant pleads guilty to the DUI charge, agrees to pay a \$300 fine and is sent on his way — but not before Judge Melillo issues him a stern warning not to drive again, drunk or sober, or he'll





Andy Chatter and Erin Chatter

find himself behind bars. Another case closed.

While the judge takes a short recess, Chatter rotates his wheelchair toward the operators and flashes a smile to this reporter. Dressed in a Mark sports jacket, gray slacks and cordovan-blue tie, the blind-butred, blue-eyed Chatter looks sharp, confident and professional.

No one can deny the blue-tieper's nature, now 28, has achieved a lot: a dual degree in English and Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley; a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin; admission to the bar in both Vermont and Texas; and a Capitol Hill internship with the Senate Judiciary Committee. That last moved him glowing praise in the Congressional Record from Sen. Patrick Leahy, who called Chatter's accomplishments "nothing short of awe inspiring."

Denvers, his boss, agrees. "By every measure, the guy is a star."

"I never would have thought I'd be here," Chatter says, just before the judge returns to the courtroom. "I guess you never know what life is going to bring you."

**C**hatter's presence in Chatham's District Court has raised the bar for what people with disabilities can hope to accomplish in Vermont. It has also forced the state's attorney's office, as well as judges, public defenders, private attorneys and other court personnel, to ask difficult and sometimes uncomfortable questions about how far they're willing to go to accommodate someone with Chatter's level of impairment.

He's now facing a new challenge: Debra, who has been his personal assistant since Chatter won his law school, is moving on, and Chatter needs a replacement at the prosecutor's table. Earlier this year, Denvers requested state funding under the Americans With Disabilities Act's "reasonable accommodation" provision to help pay for the assistance. Currently, Chatter pays Debra out of his own pocket.

The Vermont Department of Human Resources denied that request—and won't comment on what it considers a solid, detailed personal matter. John Benard, in the department's labor relations division, could say only that the decision is just a "recommendation," and if the Department

of State's Attorney wants to fund the position, it's free to do so.

Ed Paglia, executive director of the advocacy group Disability Rights Vermont, also can't comment directly on the decision but says he's disappointed by it.

"Ben is an individual who has a lot of potential, a lot of spirit and a lot of intelligence," says Paglia, who also uses a wheelchair. "His lack of creative thinking makes it unfeasible for him to do the kind of good work he can do, it's a big loss, not just to EPA's office but to all of us."

It would be understandable if Chatter were irate about the EPA's denial. He's not. As with virtually every obstacle he's encountered, Chatter takes it in stride and moves on.

"I've met people in my lifetime who

were more interested in spending their lives thinking and talking about why some people don't have the same advantages as other people. The world is not always a fair place, it sucks," he says. "But I don't want to spend my life pointing out everything that's wrong with the world."

Still, Chatter — and the court — will feel the impact of the decision, given that a crucial component of his job is "marking the file" of each defendant to track every development in the case. As Chatter can't physically do that, Debra has to do it for him.

Ironically if Vermont weren't experimenting a huge delay in implementing its new, \$4.5 million electronic case-management system (which is already a year behind schedule, Chatter wouldn't even need an assistant in court. Give him a laptop or a tablet, and he could mark the file himself).

**O**n flight up from courtroom 2B, Chatter enters his tiny, small, third-floor office overlooking Pearl Street to catch up on some e-mails. Chatter does many things lower than most people, but writing isn't one of them.

"I guess you've never seen how I do things," he says, maneuvering his wheelchair under a head lamp that rests in a cradle beside his computer. Chatter quickly ducks his head into the bureau, which is mounted with an angled chairman pointer, known as a "big-head stick," he calls it.

"This is my third hand, my primary tool for everything," Chatter explains, deftly pecking at the keyboard with astounding speed and accuracy. "Over the years, I've used various pieces of software and adaptive equipment, but I'm more comfortable with this. I kind of got into the zone when I'm working."

Chatter has written that way since the third grade and can now type about 25 words per minute. There's how he took the time for court, a graduate of Vermont Tech that awarded him a cap and gown diploma in May, 2006, multiple-choice questions and 40 short-answer questions. "It was insane," he recalls.

While Chatter makes it look easy, it's anything but.

"I expend more physical energy doing just about everything than most other people do," he says. "More than the only body I've ever had, so far as I, I don't notice."

Chatter has been physically disabled since birth. Owing to complications during his delivery, his brain was heavily deprived of oxygen, resulting in brain damage. Although his mental capacities are intact, his motor functions were permanently impaired.

"I have very unique body mechanics, which are difficult to describe in a way that other people can fully understand," Chatter explains. "I'm totally in tune with my body. I know the patterns of how it works. I'm one with it."

V&A: See how Chatter is action at Vermont Dept. of State



## A Man of Conviction

4731

Chater could have chosen a more sedentary job as a lawyer. But he says he loves the adrenaline rush and fast pace of the courtroom, even though it requires considerable stamina for him to keep up.

"I definitely want to have an impact on my world," he says. "The way I have chosen to make that impact is by doing my thing and letting people see how I do my thing."

After his long explanation, Chater takes a breath, lets out a deep sigh, then stares out the window in Zenlike contemplation. For nearly a minute, his entire body falls still, momentarily freed from the grills and appears that otherwise keeps him in constant motion. During these brief interludes of calm, it's easy to see beyond the disability to the man within.

Just down the hall, Donovan recalls their first meeting in the summer of 2011, when Chater applied for an unpaid clerkship. Donovan was immediately struck by the amount of effort Chater had to put into their conversation.

"I remember seeing him sweat — and it wasn't from the types of questions I was asking," Donovan says. "It was the duration of the interview. And at the end I said, 'We want you!'"

Chater looked for Donovan for the next six months. In February, when a full-time prosecutor's position opened up, Chater was one of several clerks to apply. Looking back, Donovan admits he had serious reservations about hiring Chater.

He wasn't the only one. According to Donovan, his entire staff met for a "really honest and hard conversation" about the decision. While no one doubted Chater's legal acumen — indeed, Donovan describes his research and writing ability as "one of the best" he's seen — several staffers questioned whether Chater could hold it in such a physically demanding environment. For the first semester in the room pointed out that, decades ago, people used to try the same thing about blacks and women in the workplace. That comment, Donovan remembers, cost the conversation a little more light.

"The guy just won me over with his work ethic and his determination," he says. "He thought he could do the job I thought he could do the job. So we gave him the opportunity."

**D**onovan isn't the only one Chater has won over. Undoubtedly, local judges contacted for this story declined to be interviewed. But several defense lawyers who routinely deal with Chater in court have nothing but good things to say about him.

"I'm extraordinarily impressed with Ben," says Fredk Twining, a defense attorney with the Burlington firm of Marshall Hughes & Twining. "I haven't seen any of



THE GUY JUST  
WON ME OVER  
WITH HIS WORK ETHIC  
AND HIS DETERMINATION.

T.J. DONOVAN

his physical limitations be an impediment to his effectiveness as a prosecutor. His knowledge of the law and his ability to advocate for the state are quite effective."

There's one more chance Chater has put to the test as a lawyer: He hasn't argued his first jury trial. Like all new deputy AAs in Chittenden County, Chater mostly handles misdemeanors, the overwhelming majority of which settle before going to trial. But it's only a matter of time before Chater makes his case to a jury, a daunting prospect for any new lawyer, let alone one with his challenges.

At Donovan points out, trials are physically and mentally exhausting, requiring long days in court under constant pressure. A prosecutor has to be able to think and move quickly, coming up with questions before a witness can respond, and potentially influence the jury.

And as any experienced litigator can attest, there's more to winning cases than just having the facts and the law on one's side. Trial lawyers not only have to be prepared, they must also put jurors at ease and connect with them emotionally, goals that are no issue for Chater, especially with jurors who have little or no experience

around someone with a severe physical impairment.

"It may be. Only time will tell," Donovan allows. "But every day I have been in his shoes. But every day I have been in his shoes. But every day I have been in his shoes."

Twining, who's been a trial lawyer for more than a decade, agrees. While he concedes that Chater's disability could be a stumbling block to some jurors, people with such discomfort or bias will most likely be weeded out during the voir dire, or jury selection process.

Indeed, Twining suggests that Chater's disability could just as easily work to his advantage, as parties may view him more sympathetically. So, Twining adds, they may simply find him to be a likable guy.

"I think there's personality in enduring to the people who aren't here," he says. "Honestly, I would prefer to try a case against a clown."

Defense attorney Paul Jarvis, with the Burlington firm of Jarva, MacArthur & Wilkins, has been a litigator for 30 years. He is equally unbothered by Chater's physical limitations.

"I enjoy dealing with him," Jarvis says.

"He's a smart young man, he's a good prosecutor and, with years of experience, he'll only get better."

Jarvis concedes that sometimes he has difficulty understanding Chater when he speaks. "But that's more my own problem. My hearing is not the best."

Others in the legal world, however, have deeper reservations, not only about Chater's ability to make himself understood but also about the pace at which he works.

Margaret Janusz is the supervising attorney for the Chittenden County Public Defender's office. Chittenden County sees between 5000 and 6000 cases a year. The 11 attorneys in her office handle at least 75 percent of them.

While Janusz has had only limited direct contact with Chater, in talking with her staff she's heard one consistent observation about him: "It takes at least twice as long to meet to get anything across plotted." That's a concern for her office, she says, "and I'm sure it's a concern for the court."

Janusz recounts one recent incident in court when it seemed to take Chater an especially long time to get his words out.

"Because the judge knew where he was going wrong, rather than having him complete the state's argument, he put him to the chair," Janusz says. Chater, she adds, "was cut right out of the process."

While such delays may be minor inconveniences during arguments and other routine proceedings, Janusz won't hazard a guess as to how Chater will perform under the stress of a full-blown trial.

"I don't know," she says. "The jury is still out."

**W**hile plenty of local lawyers can speak to how hard Chater works on the job, to Miller-Moore knows firsthand how hard Chater works in his courtroom. Back in 1996, before he was the "Starliner Kid" guy, he got diagnosed with a trademark star by the national fast-food chain Chick-fil-A. Miller-Moore worked at Montpelier High School at the same time as a young man with autism. It was there that he met Chater, then a sophomore who needed someone to drive him home each day and help with routine chores.

Initially, Miller-Moore recalls, it was just about "making a few extra bucks." But over the two, who share similar tastes in music, developed a close and lasting friendship. After school, they'd often go for long drives together listening to Neil Young, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd or Phish. After a while, Miller-Moore says, "taking a check for that friendship didn't feel right at all."

When Chater began thinking about attending college, he told his friend he was considering Duke at the University of Connecticut. Surprised, Miller-Moore told Chater he'd assumed his friend would prefer a "badger" campus — the University Two months later, Chater informed



Muller-Moore had been accepted at Berkeley and was going there that fall.

Chater graduated with honors in 2006. He was awarded the Departmental Citation for Excellence in Languages by his faculty, the only Berkeley student that year to receive the honor.

Despite the distance between them, Chater and Muller-Moore maintained their friendship. Chater moved to San Francisco, just two blocks away from the famed Fillmore Auditorium, and the two occasionally met up for concerts and road trips.

Muller-Moore enjoys seeing live music with Chater though he's often astounded at the way people treat his friend. Some will come up to Chater and, without even asking, hug him, kiss him or tell him how proud they are that he's attending the show.

But long-dwelling Highlands are nothing. Muller-Moore adds, compared with the people who walk up to Chater, speak to him in a loud, slow voice as though he were mentally impaired, "then get him on the band."

Muller-Moore, a self-described "reluctant liberal from Alabama," says he usually sides with his class. Chater doesn't, he says. Instead, he remains such a conscientious man with dignity and grace.

"He accepts that people don't mean any harm by it," Muller-Moore adds, "but he treats them with more respect than they deserve."

In the fall of 2008, Chater left the Bay Area to go to the UT-San Antonio School of Law. As if attending law school full time wasn't enough work, Chater also took on a 30-hour-a-week job as a criminal law clerk in the Brown County Attorney's Office.

At UT, as at Berkeley, Chater made a big impression on the faculty and his classmates. One of his professors, Wayne Schiess, remembers having Chater as his first-semester legal-writing class.

"One day, as I was saying good-bye to a student who had been in my office to ask for an extension on an assignment, I was late waiting. I thought he was there to get an extension, not," Schiess writes in an email. "He began to explain that he was going to California for a conference, and I was even aware that he was going to ask for an extension. And why not? His type has papers with a red string tied to his head."

Schiess was ready to offer the extension when Chater said, "Could you reach over my backpack and pull out my paper? Since I'm going to be out of town, I'm turning in my paper ahead of time." That is the kind of thing that endears a student to a writing teacher," Schiess notes.

While Chater shows no display of individual drive, Chater may still rely almost exclusively on other people for his most basic personal needs—eating, bathing, dressing, shopping, getting in and out of bed. Says Muller-Moore, "We'll never know how much effort that guy puts into life and you catch off that with him... And he gets so

angry from that. If he wakes up at 3 a.m. with an itch between his shoulder blades, that's tough luck, you know?"

Chater met Andy Dolan, his current personal aide, in March 2010 through an employment ad on Craigslist. When Chater finished law school and decided to return to Vermont, Dolan agreed to move north with him and help him get settled.

"I was only going to stay a few months, but we have a very comfortable working relationship," Dolan says. "I'm a really great guy to work for. He's really calm. Nothing fuses him. And he's become a really good friend of mine."

Dolan is one of up to 10 personal assistants who work for Chater in various shifts throughout the week. As Dolan explains, Chater prefers surrounding himself not with "professional" personal-care attendants but with diverse people who have unique backgrounds: including an organic farmer, a divorce trainer and, in Dolan's case, a theater dancer. Dolan calls them "his eclectic family of caregivers."

Soon, though, Dolan will return to his hometown in St. Paul, Maine. Will he replace him at Chater's side in courtrooms to be seen.

In the courtroom, Dolan and Chater are back together at the prosecutor's table on another Thursday, this time for a status conference involving a local antique dealer accused of fleeing stolen goods.

During the proceeding, Chater asks the judge if he can approach the bench. As he and the defending attorney converse quietly, it's evident that Chater has a little trouble speaking.

When the hearing is over, Chater rolls himself out of the courtroom. In the process, his wheelchair accidentally clips the toe of another attorney holding the door for him.

"That's the fourth time this week you have clipped the attorney's toe," judicially referring to feared, theoretical physical injury lawsuits who also use a wheelchair.

"Sorry! Sorry!" Chater says with a smile.

For Chater, who knows for his quick, but never bitter, sense of humor, isn't getting by because of the pain he may have caused. It's because the judge just assigned him his first jury trial, scheduled for January. The lawyers will pick a jury next month.

Ultimately, Chater's impact on Vermont may be measured not by the number of cases he wins but by the defendants who get to watch him work. As Chater practices a profession where he encounters a steady stream of people with all kinds of troubled pasts and social dysfunction, perhaps some will see him and say to themselves, if he can overcome everything life has thrown at him, maybe I can, too. ☐



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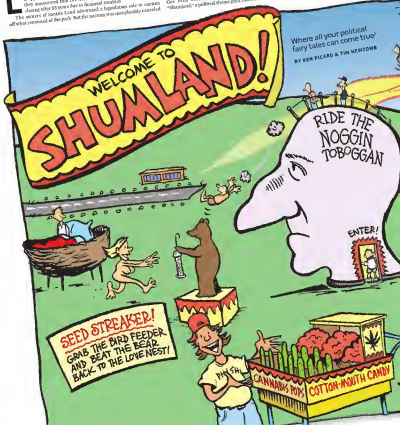


# POLITICS

**L**ike Custer, owners of the famed Scott's Land in Potomac dropped a lump of real estate Verrazano's collective trading when they announced that the holiday-themed amusement park was closing after 55 years due to financial troubles. The owners of Scott's Land advanced a legislative rule to maintain off what remained of the park. But the system was unacceptably canceled

last month at the 10th hour, used (perhaps) by some mysterious "bushwhacker."

While the secret owner hasn't been named, seven days strongly suggest Potomac's legislative rule, and under the rule, real estate speculation, Gov. Peter Shoreline. Potomac the gov plans to reopen Scott's Land, as "bushwhacker" a political theme park that's fun for the whole family. ☺



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BY BEN PICARD & TIM NEWCOMB



# My Side of the Mountain

In Lowell, a ridgeline divided

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

## ENVIRONMENT



Looking north from Carbone road No. 18

**A** few pairs of construction debate and construction — not to mention political theater, civil disobedience, arrests and lawsuits — the turbines are at long last taking at Kingdom Community Wind, the headline-grabbing energy project atop the Towhee mountain range.

I first visited Lowell Mountain in early March of this year. There weren't any turbines to be seen there, just a bumpy road, steep cliffs left behind from blasting and a steady stream of construction vehicles crawling up to the ridge.

I went back for the first time early this month — first, to tour the site with Green Mountain Power CEO Mary Powell and later to talk to the mountaintop with some of the wind project's fiercest opponents. I heard months of speculation about what the wind project would be like, both good and bad, and now my question was simple: What would I hear, and see, at the state's largest utility-scale wind project?

Eight months later, a hint of green is starting to grow along the embankments of the road leading up to the mountain. The construction vehicles are mostly gone, replaced by turbine experts in pickup trucks fine-tuning the machines — the staggeringly enormous machines — that row down over the mountain. Northeast Kingdom ridges.

The final turbine was finished in mid-October. Now at 20:00 a.m., set into the craggy and rises of the mountain. The construction crew is buttoning up the site for the winter. Representatives from Vestas, the turbine manufacturer, are on site commissioning the turbines as they are. The construction crew will wrap up site work this week and return in the spring to finish painting and landscaping.

GMP project manager Charlie Paglia told me all of this in rather flat, one of the maddeningly often heard up in a one-acre field of about 100. By that time most of the trailers will be gone, the area graded, leveled and looking — as plans call for — more like a farm field than a construction site.

Inside the trailer we grabbed lunch and then went. Powell came riding in with a pair of old, worn, hand-tooled

high-top sneakers, she was making a morning visit to the site. For 800 since construction began. Dick Keller, a contractor with GMP who has worked on wind projects for 30 years, asked if Powell had any interest in visiting to the top of one of the turbines, she laughed.

"Oh God, no!" she exclaimed. "Honey, you're never getting me to the top of a turbine!"

Instead, we stayed northbound, winding our way up the mountain to Keller's SUV. The road was splashed with mud and the workers have started mowing vegetation growing back, including wild asparagus and tree saplings. Keller talked up the wildlife sightings — deer, moose, bear, turkey. "It's going to be quite pretty," said Powell.

The towers, which appear quite large from the road, are enormous in the mountaintop. Ten of the turbines were generating power on that day, their vast blades curved under the force of the wind as they made their methodical, mechanical sounds. "I think they're quite beautiful, actually," Powell said.

At 400 feet tall, with 179-foot blades, these are undoubtedly feats of engineering.

"There's been people claiming to come up and see them," said Powell, and GMP plans to hold educational tours, she said that the "small but vocal minority" of opponents has sometimes showed up on the other side of the

story — the exclusion of wind energy advocates and the curiosity of a public eager to see the new turbines.

The temperatures were breaking this particular morning. We hopped out of the SUV at turbine one, the northeastern tower. With the wind blowing between six and nine miles an hour, the turbine was functioning at about half power. The sound at the base of the tower once it is in a wind, which, which — distinct but not overpowering.

A few minutes later, back in the SUV, Powell talked about the opposition this project has generated. She's not sure why it stirred up so much resistance — though she speculated that it was because

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## MY QUESTION WAS SIMPLE: WHAT WOULD I HEAR, AND SEE, AT THE STATE'S LARGEST UTILITY- SCALE WIND PROJECT?



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Small Mountain Power CEO Mary Powell

told me about how they'd come to join the opposition. He told me, it began with his deep skepticism about the project's cost effectiveness. Morse was harder to win over the lines off the grid and is a big fan of renewable energy that been on the fence about wind for a long time but was inclined to agree with the engineers that, as she put it, "we all need to make some sacrifices."

But Morse ultimately didn't see the issue in burning an intact ecosystem in exchange for a project that she and Holland believe will make little, if any, difference in fighting climate change.

Along the ridge line, where as much as seven covered the ground, we stopped at the line of trees posted with warnings about blasting and property boundaries. Holland and Morse set to work taping up the congregation where protesters had gathered for months. They drilled up snow-dusted turps and moved them into the one small tent that's still in place. Holland gripped for a long time with a blue and green flag strung up in the trees, but ultimately couldn't wrench it down.

ONCE WE GO THROUGH  
THIS PROCESS OF  
PEOPLE ADJUSTING, AND  
THE OPPONENTS LOSE  
SOME OF THE TRACTION  
OF RAW EMOTION,  
PEOPLE ARE  
GOING TO START  
TO RECONSIDER.

MARY POWELL

It hung, limp, wet and battered, from a dead tree branch.

Along the mountain, a stream flows from one of the taluses, the noise had grown to a roar that Holland likened to a jet engine.

I asked Holland what he had meant when he told Don Nelson, "It's not over." The turbines are up. What it is, in a sense, over?

"Truth and justice have a way of winning in the end," Holland replied.

The trouble in Lowell is that truth and justice look quite

different depending on what side of the mountain you're standing on.

The trip down the mountain was a disaster, even with Holland logging: a small sign used in one of the mountaintop demonstrations. It reads: "Corporate Service Board" and denounces the public service board that would be the parents for this project's construction. The roar of the wind turbines softened as we hiked. At the trailhead, we posted signs.

The turbines were still available in the early-winter squall, but they aren't going anywhere. And neither, apparently, are their opponents. ☐

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# Seven Lengths of Vermont

Flyover: The Animal That Contains All Animals

BY LEATH TONING

A few days after living for eight years out west, I drove from the Pacific Ocean to Vermont, my home. Within two days of arriving, I was on the Long Trail, backpacking south from the Quebec border through low gray clouds and sparkling rainbow leaves. The trip lasted 20 days, culminating at the Massachusetts border in a snowstorm. Its ending was the beginning of something much bigger.

Starting alone on a dark bus that sunny night, heading north through the storm, I tried to make sense of my experience. I'd seen so much, the faces of so many mountains, so many turns of trail. I'd gazed out over countless vistas, been soaked by rain and dried by the sun. I'd slept on the ground and been filled with its dreams of snow, of mice, of wheat and corn. My brain hurt with the questions: How does it all hold together?

An image from *Avatar* came to me. It's an image that defies imagining—an ancient 3000 miles long, a sprawling body that can never be seen in its entirety from any single angle. Too big, this body. Unfathomable. And yet real, tangible, an animal whose parts and pieces we can engage with and in some sense come to know. The Green Mountain spine. The spine of an immense, living being. I relaxed into my seat, enjoying the idea.

Six weeks after the Long Trail hike, I took a backbreaking trip. Another six weeks passed, and I embarked on a three-week ski tour. It went on like this: 800 miles on a bicycle, 240 miles in a canoe, 19 days swimming Lake Champlain. I bring *Avatar* and maps all over my office, plotting my routes and paths and treks in dark blue ink. Sometimes, between trips, I stand at the maps, lost in fantasies of future journeys and memories of journeys past. Each tiny thread was an ancient 3000 miles long. *Avatar* appeared before me as a metaphor.

Nearing the end of my year of travel, just a few weeks ago, I allowed myself a treat I'd been looking forward to for months. I plotted all the paths onto a single map. Doing so, I felt as though I were drawing together the objective map of Vermont and my subjective experiences of it. Blue threads—streams—ran parallel, crosscrossed, bunched up, knotted, frayed out. They covered ground, as I had.

Though my travels have tended to be open and optimistic, I've always known how my Seven Lengths of Vermont project would find its end. October would disappear into the chaos of seasons and he apt look up 62 mountain huts. Geese and loons would fly and I would take to the air with them. I fantasized that after a total year of exploration I would rise out of the folds of land to see Vermont all at once, unified and whole. Even if it lasted only a second, I wanted to gather the threads of my journeys and braid them together. The impossible view—everything at once. My best chance, I figured, would be a plane.

**F** This is the last essay in Leath Toning's seven-lengths-of-Vermont series.





**F**rank Gibney — retired Army helicopter pilot, retired Air Force fighter jet pilot, friend of a friend, old-school race guy — agreed to meet me at the Shelburne Airport's grass strip at 9 a.m. on a Thursday. But he was late. Wiering, I chatted with another pilot who flies out of Shelburne. I told him I'd never been up in a small plane before, and I asked what to expect. "Just wait," he said. It was a cool, strong, cloudless day, perfect for tandem and tandem-only news.

Frank arrived and we pushed his RV — a sleek, two-seater that clocks 170 miles per hour once airborne — out of its hangar in the cockpit, among the dials, switches and gauges crowding the fuselage control panel, was a little plaque, bladdly larger than a stick of gum, it read, "Passenger warning: This aircraft is not a hot rod and does not comply with federal safety regulations for standard aircraft."

Above-gradely, fiddling with his iPad, Frank briefed me on safety. "Should we get as the ground somewhere and I'm not conscious and you say," he began, "in that green circle behind the seat there's a black, rounded, cushioned, and inside that black, tapered, one-piece, doesn't a yellow box. You flip the yellow box on that box and it automatically starts putting out a burst on signal OK?"

I nodded, but I don't think he saw Frank was adjusting two rubber bands that helped connect a dangling cord to the iPad. The iPad continued impromptu flight software and wasn't working. He encouraged me to be careful, not to knock the rubber bands. I said sure, I told him yes.

After a half hour of miscellaneous prep work, we stepped up onto the plane's winged and lowered — or maybe I should say I — ourselves into our tandem seats. Frank told a glue bomb over our heads and tucked in, buckling us. He adjusted the engine, and the propeller blades on the nose of the plane, just beyond the windshield blurred and disappeared.

Sniff. Of Paul Desmarais' mechanical nose. We put on headsets that allowed us to communicate over the noise. When Frank spoke, he sounded like he was somewhere off and wrong in my ear.

Are we close? I told Frank it had never been a problem in the past, but that my belly couldn't make any promises. We

jumped out to the end of the grass runway. A noise, broken with static, whirled up in the backseat. Frank said something jagged, the voice echoed in my head and we started forward. The rear grew louder. And then the sky was everywhere.

**M**ilton Hill Shelburne Pond, Richmond, Summit Ridge, Elephant Head, Tripp Family Lodge, Warraby Reserve, Warraby Reserve, Humpy Appolashua Gap, Lincoln Peak, Inverloch Wildlife Reserve, Glenelg Wildlife Reserve, Pico, Kilgus, Kallid, Route 7, Route 30 Mt. Egan, Bennington Wildlife Reserve, Route 9, Glenelg Wildlife Reserve, Prospect 300 Area, Somerset Reserve, Glenelg Wind Power Facility, Humpy Reserve, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Vermont then Inverloch Landscape of rounded hills, bedrock whales and elephants, and a north of the hills.

We landed at Humpy State Airport in Springfield for gas and lunch. The state is the small office there told us this was the oldest airport in Vermont, and that Charles Lindbergh had given a speech here, back in 1922, to an audience of 30,000. A black-and-white photograph hangs on the wall, records on a field, Lindbergh on a stage, lots of flags. I scanned for cars but saw none. Frank and I drove around a city, ate at a house, returned to the plane and flew away.

Traveling at different altitudes, sometimes "down in the woods," as Frank put it, sometimes up at 3000 or 4000 or 5000 feet, I realized that an aerial perspective was of fending the eye and mind toward obvious, familiar features. From Springfield it was all Mt. Ascutney. From Mt. Ascutney it was all Connecticut River. The river led us over Summit Falls, the green bridge at Fitchburg, carefully, adorns and on north to Vermont State. From there it was I-90 and St. Johnsbury. Then just Lake Umbagog.

We shot the gap between Mt. Hill and Mt. Fitch, our wings amazingly close to breaking. Fitch's cliffs. Things happen quickly at 170 miles per hour. Thoughts come and go like bumper cars, like villages where atoms you can't quite place. For two seconds I was searching the cliffs

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**PROUD TO PRESENT**

## Seven Lengths by P.J.

for peregrine falcons; then I was remembering a favorite quote from nature writer J.A. Baker: "The peregrine lives in a pouring-away world of no attachments, a world of wisdom and filling, of seeking places of land and water."

The quote poured away, and the shifts, unsteady, tumbled off in our terrible winter. We basked, and the horizon tilted and sank. From there it was the Marlboro Kingdom, brained with autumn's yellow-brown, speckled with ominous warnings. "That was at the Sheburne Airport was right when he said 'that and you'."

At the edge of the Halloway Basin, we pointed over a small logging operation and flew due west. Lake Lenox, Derby Center, Lake Memphremagog, the train on Jay Peak. Looking down at Jay Peak, I remembered my first day on the Long Trail 12 months earlier and was overcome with inspiration. I knew what I wanted to do. The landscape was talking to me.

I wanted to start all over, start on another hike, another hitchhiking trip, another seven or 10 or 25 or 200 lengths of Vermont. I wanted to spend the rest of my life flowing with the seasons, through the lead blue water, over the winter like sky. I wanted to not push onto maps until the paper gave out. I was used to crawl the length of the state. I wanted to overcome it. I wanted to ride a horse, run a rail, lose up my chains, moped into snow, climb to the canopy, get drunk at a bar, crawl to the next. I wanted to see this huge small state through the eyes of adolescence, the expertise of betwixt, the schedule and routine of LPS.

SEVENLENGTHS BY P.J.



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### Seven Lengths

truck drivers I wanted to eat wild roots and grains and stay at Irish monasteries. I wanted to tumble myself into oblivion.

What, what, what — the view filled me with desire. I wanted to give myself over, not for a pun but for good. If I'd had a parachute, I swear I would have jumped right then and there, for in that one brief moment that passed away as all moments must, nothing could have sounded so sweet as to free-fall down into the infinite oblivion that is the terror of fate.

what is. The land contains squirrels and ducks and children as it contains animals 3000 miles long. I wanted to see this climate unusual, if only for a split second, but, of course, I didn't. Instead I saw its parts. The wholeness of Vermont can be understood and felt but never observed. It slips into shadows, elusive and flickering. The best you can hope for is a glimpse of paw or fin or wing, a gas station or river mouth, a moment in a place. But let me assure you: These glimpses are more than enough.

Location: Isle La Motte, Malletts Bay, Burlington, Thompson's Point, Little Otter Creek, Mt. Rich.

**A**ll told, Frank and I spent just under four hours in the no engaging and carrying and doing and raising. The RV-6 tipped a wing to every major geographic region in the state, as well as some stretch of each of my previous adventure routes. The feeling that pervaded the day was that of visiting old friends. It put a lump on my throat. There was a mysterious, emotional power in the repeated nodding — or bowing — of my head to specific places I'd visited, where I'd taken chicken, watched the sun go down and moon come up. These were places that had become more than places. By doing nothing but getting out, traveling, looking, listening, smelling, tasting and touching I'd turned them into friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters. I know it sounds cheesy, but they'd become parts of myself, and I a part of them.

**THE WHOLENESS OF VERMONT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AND FELT BUT NEVER OBSERVED. IT SLIPS INTO SHADOWS, ELUSIVE AND FLICKERING.**

Shelburne's Vermont Teddy Bear Company U-turn. Once landing strip speckled white with gulls.

The gulls roared before us, and the bright afternoon sun exploded off shoulders of insect gars on the glass bubble overhead. The wheels heaved down. The flight was over. The year was over. I thought Frank for an amazing day I thought Vermont for an amazing adventure, and for my life, and for being an animal to us all.

The propeller revolved into visibility and the roaring noise went mute. We pulled the glass back, and through the fuel I watched leaves and wood smoke. I heard the press. I looked up. They were flying south is a darkened V, the sound of which they were a part answering quickly beneath them. I stepped down from the wing of the plane onto the ground. Though it may be obvious, I'll say it anyway: The ground felt solid beneath my feet, solid and good. ☺

The writer Barry Lopez has called the land so "beaut that contains all other worlds." If it's not beautiful, I don't know

The propeller revolved into visibility and the roaring noise went mute. We pulled the glass back, and through the fuel I watched leaves and wood smoke. I heard the press. I looked up. They were flying south is a darkened V, the sound of which they were a part answering quickly beneath them. I stepped down from the wing of the plane onto the ground. Though it may be obvious, I'll say it anyway: The ground felt solid beneath my feet, solid and good. ☺

Is it corny if I tell her  
she's gourd-ous?

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Taste Test: Peasant, Waitsfield BY COBIN KIRSCH

**T**wo Sunday nights ago, a three-high barrier of white sandbags stood piled outside Waitsfield's 40 Bridge Street, just barely visible in the dark.

They had been filled and arranged by volunteers as a preemptive measure against Hurricane Emily, the "superstorm" with the heaviest rains that was predicted to reach Vermont the following day.

It had been just over a year since another storm, Irene, swelled the Mad River so violently that it inundated downtown Waitsfield and shoved a neighboring building into the side of 40 Bridge. One business in the complex, local favorite the Green Day Cafe, closed in the wake of the storm and never reopened.

The sandbags were a not-so-subtle reminder that a lot was again at stake here: In the months since Irene, the Galsano family, which owns the riverside building, had artfully reinvented it back into a hub for food businesses. In the back, a bakery and ice cream parlor called the Sweet Spot had opened; in the front, a single appeared this summer for Peasant, an Italian eatery oriented toward Mediterranean comfort food. (Later this month, a butcher will join them.)

Peasant's chef, Glen Albert, is a transplanted New Yorker who spent decades as an entrepreneur enter into some of the city's best restaurants, Rucoli Restaurant and Lupa Osteria. He was strong there. He also had experience replicating some of those dishes for an expanding family his wife, Stacy Ellen, and their five kids.



A boxing experience on September 11, 2001, motivated the family's move to Vermont later that year. A breaker at the time, Albert walked out of the World Trade Center 15 minutes before the first plane hit. Though he commuted to the city for work for a few more years,

wise, running his own restaurant was a natural next step.

Walking past the sandbags to enter Peasant, diners couldn't help fearing another crippling storm. Albert had a contingency plan to close on Monday if the storm knocked out power. Peasant

calls himself an "amateur climate guy," and he was convinced the storm would keep to the south. With that in mind, he simply dined his whites and began cooking for another Sunday-night service.

Once you walk through Peasant's door, dark thoughts tend to dissipate. The blood-red interior is warm and enveloping, like a friends dining room, the walls are covered with kinetic, colorful paintings, and the room is electrically lit by tiny votives, a feisty chandelier and cutting scones. Smoky and quickly warm energy from the kitchen. A few of the wooden tables occupy their own little nooks, atop oars, beside one of the broad windows, reveal a vintage-looking metal lamp. (A separate room in the back, painted a rich grey-green, is home to the bar and a few more tables.)

The warmth extends to the staff, who are attentive and personable without being intrusive. At one point, Albert emerged from the kitchen to ask diners about their needs, and a server often stood at a station in the center of the dining room, casually glancing at dishes.

Peasant models itself on the cuisines of rural Tuscany and France, two regions where menus can be short — as in, one or two items. While not that dining, Peasant's menu is certainly succinct: three starters, three salads, two pastas, four entrees and three desserts, augmented by one or two daily specials written on a chalkboard near the front door. Yet it was surprisingly difficult to choose among what all sounded like delicious, fully realized dishes, from Tuscan meatballs to pan-cooked chicken to pork with beans, the right's appeal.

Later was finding something to

## THE BEEF WAS MELTINGLY TENDER, ALMOST FALLING APART IN A MIDNIGHT-DARK STOCK-AND-WINE SAUCE.

he also put down roots in Vermont, literally, when he planted his 3-acre East Warren Vineyard.

The Alberts now sell their grapes to North Branch Vineyards in Montpelier, where winemaker John McCann grows, ferments, ages and bottles them. Glen Albert's deepening love of, and engagement with, food and

is usually open for dinner Thursdays through Mondays, and he had already scheduled a two-week after-season break starting on November 1. Knowing this meal might be the family's last hurrah for a while kept the evening a personal poignancy, at least for visitors.

The chef himself, meanwhile, was rolling with the punches Albert, who

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STORM NAMING: AP/WIDE

# SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSH & ALICE LEVITT

## Grün Mountain Coffee

SCANDINAVIAN FOOD CART IN MONTPELIER

For more than a decade, modern Scandinavian cuisine has been earning its place as a hip choice in big cities. Now, thanks to a new food cart, Vermonters can finally taste what they've been craving.



Doug and Jennifer Hagen

**GRÜN MOUNTAIN COFFEE STREET CAFE** recently began parking in front of 27 State Street in Montpelier, the former home of Capitol Growths. There, owners **DOUG** and **JENNIFER HAGEN** are introducing Vermont's capital to lighter fare on the cart's sole offering: it is a "made-to-order" labor-intensive, mind-bogglingly busy old-world Norwegian, crite-like potato flatbread.

According to Doug Hagen, his Italian American wife has a natural knack for making the bread that can taste Scandinavian home-made a lifetime to master. "It's a marriage project," says the former life professor, who left New York's Wagner College for slow-paced Vermont earlier this year. "My mother and sister took classes for this and gave up. It's no hard. You can rush it and do it in a 45-hour period, but it takes [smaller] three days."

The result is a skippy, potato-scented wrap that the Hagens fill with everything from kielbasa, sausage and homemade ricotta to chocolate-glazed buns, sliced brie, blueberries and other accents. The cart's other specialties include oatcakes, coffee and intense hot chocolate made from arabica Swedish and Belgian bars.

The couple isn't yet using Twitter or Facebook to notify

dozens of service hours, but Doug Hagen says they should be up and running soon. The cart was designed to withstand freezing weather, and a spot at River Mountain Resort is in the works. Whether scheduling or walking to work, visitors to the Greenhouse will have a cool new way to warm up this winter.

— A. L.

## The New Local

STOCKBRIDGE GRUBS & BEER

If you're over 18, your town could use its own little booze bar. And that you could pull off opening one yourself, **NATHAN LYNE** might be able to offer advice. Since it opened eight weeks ago, word of mouth has led to steady business for the reformed, the **WOLFTRAIL**.

A baker and musician, Lyne had "no money" when the owners of the

## Smooth Landing

MONTEPIER THURSH RESTAURANT OPENS IN MONTPELIER

Where can you get pot stickers, a **LA COMME PERSE**, River Run Restaurant's barbecue, catfish breakfast and the smoked burger popularized in short-lived Clean Plate Café At Vermont Thresh Restaurant, which opened on Monday at 807 State Street in Montpelier, the site most recently home to Clean Plate and previously to the beloved Thresh Tavern.

It's thanks to former Thresh Tavern owners **PAUL** and **TIM HANLEY** that **SARAH MOORE** and **CAROL MOORE** have their restaurant carries that familiar moniker. "We're so grateful they gave us the name," says Moore. "If they had a copyright on it, but honestly, we wouldn't have gotten nearly as much notice without having that name."

Perhaps, but both front-of-house specialist Moore and chef Moore have noteworthy resumes on their own CVs. Both worked at the **OTTOMAN TABLE** in New York City, and Moore began training with A Single Public's chef-founder, **STEVE BART**, when the younger chef was in high school.

It was Bart's role as an unofficial consultant to Vermont Thresh that led to Moore's inclusion of once-popular Washington County dishes on the menu. But most of the fare is all Moore's own. The dinner menu, for instance, features lobster cakes with Thai peanut dipping sauce and hot clarified butter, peppers stuffed with sautéed tofu and dressed in creamy vegan cauliflower sauce, and pasture with hand-cut corn, Maplebrook Farm Cheese curds and house chicken gravy.

"When it came to recreating the original Thresh, Paul says, 'We can't bring back the porch, but we can bring back the drinks.' House cocktails include old school staples such as Greenhouse, Stingers and Old fashioned. There also promises a good selection of vodkas, scotch and bourbon and good artisan beer on draft." In addition to daily dinner, Vermont Thresh serves weekly lunches with childhood sandwich specials and daily soups — mac, vegetable, and creamy French — available on Sunday and Monday, too — ensuring that diners will have plenty of opportunities to grab bites of Montpelier past and present.

— A. L.

former **TOMMY'S Restaurant** South offered up their space for lease, she says. Lyne had long believed that this decentralized Stockbridge could use a gathering place. "During [Lyne], we saw how disconnected our town can be," she says.

Lyne envisioned an intimate space where the could bake, cook up produce



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## food

### Storm Warming



drink on the eclectic wine list, since one of the two East Warren wines on the menu — the Frontonaise d'oc — was tipped out that evening, my friend and I dined in with glasses of Nibbels and Chardonnay, respectively.

We didn't have to wait long after ordering. The food arrived at a snappy pace, with the abalone garnish a basket of wares, creamy, almost milky. Red Hot brand. It was so addictive that we practically polished off the entire portion before diving into a bowl of spaghetti and a soup to finish.

we found it hard to believe that it was totally vegetarian. Big, floppy ears of asparagus mingled with a few stalks soaked caramelized beets, and, while we would have liked a few more beets, we thought that some had been paired to lend the soup its milky color.

Another starter was the soup's polar opposite: a graceful tangle of shrimp and delicate tendrils tossed with sweet



**More food after the classified section.** [page 48](http://page 48)





curls of bread), doused with fresh herbs and kissed by a lemony dressing; a sliver tucked the last bite off the plate.

This was the brightest dish we would see. As the night wore on, the fare became richer, darker, more satisfying — earth, cheese, sauces, beans and meats befitting Peasant's no-nonsense food ethos. With a pungent aroma, a plate of tagliatelle announced itself before it arrived. The gorgeous sauce itself was tangy, but milder than it smelled; a silky-but-rich veil of cream grounded by earthy mushrooms, with vital acidity added by a dollop of sundried-tomato coulis on top.

We split the pasta, and by then we were perfectly sated so the appearance of our entrees in two courses elicited a momentary pause as we braced ourselves for more. One continued braised beef from nearby Caydon Farm over lentils, the other, cassoulet.

While the dishes at Peasant aren't as photogenic as the setting, every reminder as of something an Italian aunt might serve unasked, belly filling, aggressive in weight. Such were the main events. The beef was tenderly tender, almost falling apart in a midnight dark stock and wine sauce, dry shards of rosemary adding woody notes to each bite. The cassoulet was an uneven mound of sliced sweet Italian sausage and

beaks of chicken and pork in an even-so-slightly sweet, tomato-based sauce, layered with onions, carrots, and cauliflower. Though it had soft edges, the stew felt as if it might benefit from a heartier dollop of fat or even more time in the pot, the separate parts didn't quite gel, leaving the dish somehow disjointed but it was still good enough to make us eat at least half before admitting defeat.

Needless to say, we had no room for the poached prawns with macarphone — a recipe Alberti says he swiped from an Italian cafe in Brooklyn. Fortunately for our stomachs, he was out of town.

By the time we lumbered out into the night, the river was still low and still. The next day, Steady would blow into Vermont with a few strong gusts but not much more, and Peasant would stay open for one more night before the chef and his family decamped for R&R in Florida.

They'll be back in the saddle on November 15, when Alberti plans to change up the menu with winter-inspired dishes such as bison coulis stew. When the snow starts flying, I hope to return for some of the dishes I didn't have a chance to try — meatballs, for one, and all that pure jus sauce, at least! chicken carpaccio.

With any luck, those snuggles protecting Peasant will go unwarmed through many future winters. ☺

## || SIDE *dishes*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47



and midnight finds and brought in enough food for a first meal. Voila.

Wild Fern was born, named for the couple's daughter, Rae Fern.

"I take each day as it comes by going simple," says Lyons, who offers only a handful of specials based on ingredients she can find that day. In addition to the burgers, croissants and breads that are sure to hit, the baker cooks up soups, sandwiches, pizza (on Wednesday and Friday nights) and steambak, all from produce she gathers from Stackbridge Farms.

Lyons' business around the table at Wild Fern's "the house, waitress and bakeress" as she puts it, saying, "I've tried to combine the best of three worlds: macro, local and art." During Sunday brunch, she and Berlinghoff entertain diners with sausages crafted from open boxes.

Located at 1791 Route 100 in Stackbridge (246-4119), Wild Fern is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Fridays

from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check Facebook for updates.

— C.H.

## Retaking the Country

FARMER-DINNER PROFFERS  
FARMER'S COUNTRY

**HANNEY DINNER PROFFERS** seems to have more lives than its decades-long existence, it has opened and closed more times than most diners can count. After its most recent hiatus, the diner reopened in September '27 with new owners who have spread up the menu with daily specials, among them bacon-wrapped meatloaf, shrimp Algonquin, crabcake burgers, pulled pork over rice and chicken Carbonara.

The reinspired diner fell in the hands of co-owner and chef **BRAND AARH**, who recently returned to Vermont after a dozen years

running restaurants in Florida. When he and his colleagues **WESLEY BARR** discovered that the Country Pantry was for sale, they jumped on the opportunity.

"I kind of panicked it was time to start something on my own," says Aarh, who took to early each day to make soups and bake fresh focaccia for the diner's panini.

Late users may be damaged to hear that Country Pantry no longer serves breakfast all day, but if they show up before 10:30 a.m., they can still score omelettes, pancakes, French toast, waffles, egg Benedict and hearty "house shalfers" filled with herb-filled goodness. Thursday nights bring stuffed lobster, while Friday is seafood night.

Located at 450 Main Street in Furlow (249-0566), Country Pantry is closed Mondays and open for breakfast through dinner the rest of the week.

— C.H.

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# Taste and the City

Montréal debuts a Restaurant Week

BY ALICE LEVITT

One day in Montréal. Nearly 300 restaurants to choose from. I couldn't have eaten everything. I wanted to even if I had stayed in town for all 10 days of Taste MTL, the city's inaugural Restaurant Week, but I took on the challenge of choosing a meal that would make the day imperishable. I perused every menu in anticipation of my trip and narrowed my choices down to two. One was the \$19 bûche de fœt at downtown's **Fourquet Pouchette**, where one entrée included a smoked Québec pig trotter, a mini roast pig, cannellini bean and homemade ketchup. But I was also

in awe of the wine pleasantly surprised by the quality of the restaurants that signed on to offer discounted pre-theatre menus during November's slow tourist season. **Arrière Foyer** of ultra-plush **Europea**, generally considered one of the best restaurants in the city, was one of the first restaurants on board. **Arrière Foyer** telling her that he wanted to take part even though his business didn't need the bump "Right away, he said, 'This is good for Montréal and good for the industry,'" she says. "He did a nice corporate move to join us in this adventure."



Québécois food history and mythology on nearly every block.

For instance, **Poulet d'Inde**, the French word for turkey, made its origin in the disappointment of European employers who arrived in Canada expecting to have reached Asia. The meaty bird they discovered there got its name from a shortening of "poulet d'Inde" or "chicken of India."

Another animal of the New World, the beaver, was a popular culinary discovery. Though conservation laws now protect the animal from hungry Québécois, they were much appreciated in the 17th century on Friday nights. The Bishop of



tempted by the four courses, including savory blinis as *dessert* such as fine green color bûche, at **Quatre à Repertoire**, a restaurant I'd never heard of.

Taste MTL is the brainchild of the city's tourism board, although Tourism MTL, director of membership for Tourism Montréal, says her staff never intended to run the program themselves. "We were hoping somebody was going to organize it," she recalls. "We really felt we had to push the culinary tourism market. We said, 'It's time we have a Restaurant Week.' No one was doing it, so we started putting it together for the industry to a lot of the 10 cities, it's the tourism board that put it together, so we said, 'OK, this makes sense.'"

It began by approaching the 200 restaurants that were already members of Tourism Montréal. Presentations and additional emails to some 600 restaurants resulted in a total of nearly 300 participants, will be open to 68 to 70 restaurants. Ben and her team were shooting for

100 pre-theatre dinners for all 11 nights were sold, we will before Taste MTL begins. One dinner lucky enough to snag a reservation was **Arrière Foyer**, where playing his own role as providing snack courses. Montréal food tourism. Each summer Foyer provides culinary walks through neighborhoods across the city; this year, just for Taste MTL, he's organized a fall series through agency VDM Global. "As far as food tours go in Montréal," says the retired culinary expert, "I invented them 15 years ago."

Before heading to dinner, I joined Foyer and eight other souls hungry enough for knowledge to leave the cold rain on a second-hour walk through old Montréal. We met at the rue St. Jacques entrance to the Square Victoria metro station, where the guide explained that his Taste MTL team are all bilingual, rather than split into French and English options like his summer walks. He hoped between the two languages suddenly, sharing stories of French and

Québec. François de Lévis, obtained approval from *Thérèse de la Barbante* to call the neighborhood's market a fish, so Catholics could dig in even when consuming meat was forbidden.

There should meet stories with the group over glasses of wine at **Hotel Nelligan**. Named for poet Émile Nelligan, the luxury hotel is a far more comfortable setting than the second institutions where the journalists write about much of his later life. At the **Veritas Bar**, our group heard about his history while tucking into miniature croque-monsieur.

The tour ended with a stop in front of **Marché Bonsecours**, one of Montréal's largest markets, today a shopping and conference center. Foyer ducked into **Cher L'Épicier** across the street from the old market and emerged with a brown paper bag to offer a final lesson. "Food is fashion, and there's always the trendy new thing. It was capucines, then *Arrière Foyer* brought in macarons," he said. "Look for

natural cotton candy next, but for now, I'm marshmallows."

With that, Pore presented each guest with a bag of fluffy vanilla marshmallow squares, popularized by Liligato's chef, Laurent Godfroid. After a good-bye handshake, I returned to my car for the 20 minute drive out to Distro Le Repertoire.

I found it in the Rosemont neighborhood, between a tobacco store and a ladies' hair salon, that both looked like they'd changed little in the last 80 years. The 30-seat restaurant was unassuming inside, too—a hole in the wall that might easily have been home to parties in covered chicken gravy. But these turned out to be nothing pie-in-the-sky about the tiny bistro whose chef is inspired by traditional Quebecois cuisine and ingredients.

My \$18 dinner begins with the brasserie, a combination of local hard cider and Porgil, an Italian strawberry liqueur filled with tiny wild berries. It was unassuming—but on an empty-stomach-to-reveal-all-year-darkening-evening, but in a way that transported me from the heavy little restaurant to a fairy-tale castle. Or at least to a hidden gem of a modern Theresian bistro.

Our server presented the hot rolls individually with butter, a high-end touch for a spot where most of the young chefs were dressed in jeans. The first-course choices were two cubes of the dry chicken-liver mousse and cream-pottery cream soup. Both made use of never-crushed onion to brighten a delicate, earthy flavor.

While these dishes were delicious examples of the Quebec terroir, the second course was where chef Francis Moreau pulled out the big guns. A meaty pork loin was made from bleu cheese crusted by leekedermine mussels in nearby Saint-Basile-de-Leau, Québec. Inside it, a mix of oranges and toasted almonds was dressed in honey and served over roasted leekedermine mussels with the same flavor of baked leekedermine cheese.

Though the dessert concept mirrored appetizers was a light-bitter bistro, it couldn't compare with mother-fish connoisseurs along the same leekedermine leekedermine with fine wine. The thick crust had just enough cream to water down the mussels' taste of fat, offering a full-on assault of fatty, luscious pleasure. On top of the tower's sugar crust melted

a shower of something described on the menu as "muple sugar sparkling." It was homemade, muple-flavored Pop Rocks. And they did indeed sparkle, adding a hint of muple taste that literally popped alongside the soft crumbly brittle.

One main-course option was more than a chocolate and sauce sauce that looked like a delicate, French-influenced milk. Another was great crispy mouth that filled us with place. Filled with heated, saucy green lentils, green beans, starched-out root veggies and mashed potatoes, the huge pastry was covered in a sweet and tangy sauce made of local wild blueberries.

Though dessert was largely unnecessary after that meal, I was offered a choice between white-chocolate fondant and orange sauce with a crackling protein crisp, and a second choice between this one layered with potatoes that packed a three-dimensional punch.

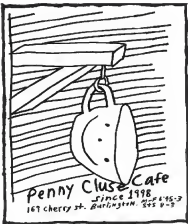
The meal was the perfect way for Moreau, who opened Le Repertoire in 2009, to show his staff to Montreal and its visitors. For this chef, Distro MTL is working. "Normally, this is a very quiet period for us," Moreau says. "This has been a great way to drive Montrealers and tourists to eat out."

In quiet little Rosemont, Distro Le Repertoire is now booked through next weekend, so Vancouverians hoping to take advantage of the price-low menu will have to choose another restaurant. An entrée at Repertoire normally costs nearly as much as four courses do this week, but Moreau says he'll definitely participate in the next Taste MTL.

As for Distro, the says next year's fall Taste MTL is a done deal, her office is floating the idea of a spring season, as well. For chefs and culinary tourists, restaurants like Le Repertoire all get to promote their dishes and their talent. The rest of us get to taste it—and perhaps with vent arranged for a longer stay.

**D**istro MTL continues through Sunday November 17, 2013, and more information at [tastemtl.com](http://tastemtl.com).

Distro Le Repertoire, 2020 rue Bellefleur, Montreal, 514-251-2020, [distrorrepertoire.com](http://distrorrepertoire.com)



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### community

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**HOUSTONER ISLAND GARDENS** Protests and parties made up of a protest against the use of the Texas mountains Island gardens and the creation of a citywide protest. Houston Public Hall, Houston, College of Fine Arts, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 205-1006

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### crafts

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### dance

**GENIE GENIE MEETING** Dance Lyle Lyle dance troupe. Houston Public Hall, Houston 8-10 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

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### film

**AMERICAN** Storytelling and culture are compared in the film "The American" between two young women — one in the city and one in the country. Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**AGE AT WHICH WE LIVE** Book 2: Book review and discussion. Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES** Tenth-century and thirteenth-century music. Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**TELLUSON MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL TOUR** Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

### games

**BUFFALO PIN DE CLARE** Pin de Clare. Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

### health & fitness

**AMERICAN REGIONAL RUNNING DRIVE** Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**PROG ROCK** Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**HEALTHY AND DISCUSSION** Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

**HEALTHY AND DISCUSSION** Houston Public Library, Houston 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 853-4553

Info: 853-4553

## NOV. 11 | MUSIC

### Squeezebox Swamp

Cadre Watson wasn't born in Cajun Country, but he can navigate Creole, Cajun and zydeco traditions like a native. In fact, he meets them all together with Afro-Caribbean polyrhythms, creating a sound that one critic called "refreshingly new and joyously old school at the same time." Backed by his band Bigou Creole, the twenty-something Grammy nominee trades old between a baroque accordion and a fiddle, creating a spicy jamboogie of new steps and wrinkles. Tap your toes to his rip-roaring fiddle — and fiddle on fiddle — in Norville on Sunday.

### CECILE WATSON & BIGOU CREOLE

Sunday, November 11, 8 p.m. at River Arts Center in Norville. \$15 suggested donation. Info: 888-1581 riverarts.org

## NOV. 14 | COMEDY

### Buzzworthy Wit

It's pretty obvious why Dan White, who's often performed with a glass of wine in one hand, a cigar in the other, earned his latest comedy special "A Little Unprofessional" from, at times he resembles the "Drunk Uncle" character from "Saturday Night Live." But his endearingly inappropriate blurt is working. After rising to fame with Jeff Foxworthy and Bill Engvall on the Blue Collar Comedy Tour in the early 2000s, the Texas native has appeared on Comedy Central, been nominated for a Grammy and landed a role in Horrible Bosses. Become part of the "buzzworthy" when White delivers unimpeachable humor at his solo "Unprofessional" show.

### RON WHITE

Wednesday, November 14, 7 p.m. at Paramount Theatre in Rutland. \$44.50-75.50 for mature audiences only. Info: 775-9933 paramount.org

### LIST YOUR UPCOMING EVENT HERE FOR FREE

All listed events are free to list on NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012. The deadline for publication is 10:00 a.m. on NOVEMBER 14, 2012. All listed events are free to list on NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012. The deadline for publication is 10:00 a.m. on NOVEMBER 14, 2012. All listed events are free to list on NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012. The deadline for publication is 10:00 a.m. on NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

Event in all 50 states is free to list on NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012. The deadline for publication is 10:00 a.m. on NOVEMBER 14, 2012. All listed events are free to list on NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012. The deadline for publication is 10:00 a.m. on NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

### CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

Get a head start on your calendar for the next seven days. Get a head start on your calendar for the next seven days. Get a head start on your calendar for the next seven days. Get a head start on your calendar for the next seven days.

**D**e Temple Grandin did not speak until she was nearly 4 years old — around the same time she received an autism diagnosis. Intensive therapy gave her the tools to step into the wider world. Great intellect and perseverance resulted in her stature as an international leader for both animal-welfare and animal advocacy. The prominent author and presenter

swings through Vermont on Tuesday with a trio of engagements: She'll speak on humane livestock farming at UVM, offer personal experience with autism at the Essex Cinemas and our connectors with companion animals at a formal dinner at Shelburne Farms. Expect Grandin to touch upon the common thread in her life and work: weaving opportunity into adversity.

#### TEMPLE GRANDIN

Tuesday November 12 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at the Allen Chapel UVM in Burlington Free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Essex Cinemas and 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Shelburne Farms. \$300 (separate tickets for Humane Society of Chittenden County) Info: 802-235-2611, [shel@shelburnefarms.org](mailto:shel@shelburnefarms.org)

# Different, Not Less

NOV. 13 | TALKS



NOV. 10 | FILM

## Be Kind Rewind

Obvious how to best care for your films? Notlogic for most speakers? Mark Frueher and Joe Pollock sure are. In 1991, the Wisconsin-based collecting discarded videotape game from garage sales, thrift stores, and, at times, dumpsters. They took their hobby to new heights in 2004 and became curators of the Found Footage Festival, which is built on unintentionally funny material that only VHS players can see. The critically acclaimed pair returns to Vermont as part of a 50-state tour showcasing this obscure art form. A screening of *Volume 4*, their newest production, grants audiences access to their tale-lighting commentary.

#### FOUND FOOTAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday November 10 8:30 p.m. at Film House, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington \$10 Info: 804-7099 [foundfootagefest.com](http://foundfootagefest.com)









as they perform exercises from standstills by Deborah Hiestand, SCHWARTZ Fitness and Aerobics Studio Park, Hopkinton, 450 Central Street, Hopkinton, 7:30pm, \$25.30, 14th, 782-4534

**PETER HALLER** The singer – when the Boston Globe deemed all substance which isn't a singer – brings a new sound to the Vermont music scene and a new sound to the Vermont music scene. 450 Central Street, Hopkinton, 7:30pm, \$25.30, 14th, 782-4534

**PHILIP BROOKS** The musician brings a new sound to the Vermont music scene and a new sound to the Vermont music scene. 450 Central Street, Hopkinton, 7:30pm, \$25.30, 14th, 782-4534

**THE MUSIC** The contemporary music scene and a new sound to the Vermont music scene. 450 Central Street, Hopkinton, 7:30pm, \$25.30, 14th, 782-4534

## CLUBS

**CLUBS** The contemporary music scene and a new sound to the Vermont music scene. 450 Central Street, Hopkinton, 7:30pm, \$25.30, 14th, 782-4534

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# CENTRAL TO YOUR NEW LIFE



Roger A. Kowalski, DO  
FACOG, OB-GYN



Abbie Blum, MD  
OB-GYN



Anna Kowalski, RN  
OB Nurse



Sarah Blum, RN  
OB Nurse



Deborah Jones, MD  
OB-GYN



Renee Blum, RN  
OB Nurse

"Our girls are so perfect and the care from labor to delivery was absolutely exceptional. My love was great. If I went into labor before 35 weeks I would have had to deliver elsewhere so I'm very happy and grateful that I had our girls here. I have a list of everyone who has come in that thank to help or visit or celebrate with us – so I can share them. It's been incredible. You know, it's such a pleasure to work at CVMC and now to have our girls here. I just can't say enough. THANK YOU!"

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Indeed Love, Joy, Celebration, Happiness, Pride, Love, Relief! Katie and Bob St. Pierre had lots to say about their beautiful daughters and did so with a beautiful and infectious enthusiasm. Their little Annabelle arrived first and weighed 4lb/10oz. She looks just like her happy mom. Their sweet Bridgette soon followed weighing 4lb/14oz. She looks a lot like her proud daddy. What lucky girls! What great parents. The happy St. Pierre family lives in Stowe. We wish them continued good fortune and thank them for making our week! Obviously we just can't say enough either. Fabulous Wonderful. Amazing. Thank you and YAY!



**Central Vermont Medical Center**  
Central To Your Well Being / cvmc.org  
Central Vermont Women's Health - 371-5861. Call 371-4673 to schedule a tour of our Garden Path Birthing Center.







proposed case of the vaccine, and offer financial help-  
ships and in-kind services for children in clothing  
banks, summer meals, and up to \$1000 a year. 7-10  
p.m. 330-500 jenn@del. 330-2200 and 330-  
2000jenn@del. 330-2200

#### START THE CONVERSATION: HEALTH CARE

**PLANNING:** Franklin County Health Fair—Agency staff explore the state of life care. Roundtable.  
Independent Living, 50 Albion. 4 p.m. Free. Info:  
330-733

#### STEPS TO WELLNESS

Are you someone who cannot go on stress manage-  
ment, anger management, or recovery classes?  
A new class for individuals in recovery. Services  
Allen Health Care (Cannondale Building), 300 E.  
Saratoga. 6-7 p.m. Free. Info: 636-2036

**TRUCKING MEET NOLA:** Michelle (Trinity) West  
presents a program through creative teaching  
and interactive learning. Common Code. 100  
Camp Green, Easton. 6-7:30 p.m. \$1. Bring a  
friend. Info: 830-4003

#### Arts

**CREATIVE SUBCULTURES:** Artists reshape their imagi-  
nations with photography. Individuals to meet  
to be accompanied by an artist. Fiction Free Library  
and open. 3-5 p.m. Free. Info: 883-9338

**YOUNG STORY HOUR:** Good stories to keep  
you interested with tales, crafts and more at  
Pineville Community Library. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free.  
Info: 340-0400

**BOOKS AND STORY HOUR:** See 330-2200

**MUSIC WITH RHYTHM:** Music lessons for all ages  
beginning with strings with Susan Swales. Franklin  
Park Library. 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Info:  
830-7338

**RECREATION AND LEARNING:** Support for the  
downside of life and assist in. Community Builders  
Library. Community Center. 10-11:30 a.m.  
Free. Info: 330-0434

**SCIENCE & STORIES: IMAGINATION:** Comes about  
these growing up years, in a different world  
that around the world. Authors explore what  
makes them think they are different. 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Lake Champlain Community Center. 3-4 p.m. Free with  
ticket. 330-50-50

**WALKING STORY HOUR:** Youngsters ages 3 to 5  
get to hear stories and create projects.  
Community Center. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info:  
830-4003

#### Arts & Crafts

**FRANCH COOPERATION GROUP:** Big new 10-  
minute French classes. 10-11:30 a.m. Free.  
Info: 330-0434. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info:  
330-0434

**PAUSE-CAFE FRENCH COOPERATION:**  
Individuals at all levels until the country's  
language is being presented. 10-11:30 a.m.  
Burlington. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 330-0434

#### Education

**WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE:**  
Study French in an advanced program of French  
and English. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info:  
330-0434

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Any day you want to make a difference, you can do it.  
You can be a hero. You can be a hero. You can be a hero.  
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**ANY DAY YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, YOU CAN DO IT.**  
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Shop for Dinner or Holiday Gifts  
Raffle to Benefit the Food Shelf

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10am - 5pm**

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**Shelburne Vineyard  
Autumn  
Wine & Food  
Festival**

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Shelburne, VT 05487

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Shelburne Farms VT Creamery, Shelburne Chocolate, East Store, Vermont  
Autumn Wine & Food Festival, Shelburne Vineyard, Shelburne Food Shelf  
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Market and receive  
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# FREE

thinking.

# FREE

for all.

**SEVEN DAYS**  
sevendaysvt.com

November 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Billings North Lounge, UVM

# Election 2012

The Impact of the  
Results on Vermont  
and Vermonters

Former/Dic Beale, Middlebury College, will moderate a panel of journalists to discuss the impact of the 2012 voting results on our lives here in Vermont. The journalists also won't be afraid to ask tough questions and conduct rigorous fact-checking.

Come hear Wendie Dine, journalist and author, Brian Cawson, NHAA TV, Daily Coverage, Seven Days, Pink Globe, Vermont Public Radio, and Tom Hodge, Burlington Free Press.

Sponsored by the State Center for Research on Vermont & the James M. Coffey Center

## DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND...

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YEAR OLDS  
(PRE-K)**

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THE FOLLOWING CLASS LISTINGS ARE PAID ADVERTISEMENTS. ANNOUNCE YOUR CLASS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$19.95/WEEK (INCLUDES SIX PHOTOS AND UNLIMITED DESCRIPTION ONLINE). SUGGEST YOUR CLASS AD AT [SEVENMAYNOT.COM/CLASS](http://SEVENMAYNOT.COM/CLASS).

**4230** [event.org](http://event.org) A day of workshops for educators K-12 in after-school settings to integrate dance and theater into the curriculum. Co-sponsored with Champions' Gallery







WHAT DID YOU BELIEVE I HAD TO DO AS THE TEACHER?

**October 24 or November**  
 \$149/weekend (discount  
 available for 2 or more  
 attendees from the same  
 organization) Location:  
 Hampden Hills, 401 Lower  
 Mountain View Drive  
 Call to reserve: 204-732-0120,  
 education@nrc.org  
 Does your job require that  
 you teach adults because  
 you know the information  
 is new to engage  
 adults and increase their  
 interest? This highly  
 interactive seminar provides  
 an opportunity for people in  
 training to learn how to  
 teach adults. All types of  
 careers applicable. We provide  
 all course materials, study  
 materials.



## weight loss

#### RESEARCH & CONSULTING

**EATING** May 7 Jan 2  
 9:30 a.m. in Coll. C10/  
 registration fee Group  
 sessions. Meal insurance  
 accepted & sliding fee scale.  
 See also: Healthy Minds  
 Counseling, Counseling and  
 Educators, 319 South Main  
 St. Suite 3-10, Allentown, PA  
 Healthy Minds Counseling,  
 Counseling and Educators,  
 Tanners Corners, 524-  
 0000, [www.hmccny.org](http://www.hmccny.org)  
[HealthyMinds@aol.com](mailto:HealthyMinds@aol.com),  
[www.hmccny.org](http://www.hmccny.org) (see *Healthy  
 eating, aspects of*) *Identify  
 and maintain individual  
 eating patterns for  
 mood, and long-term  
 health* (see *Healthy  
 eating, aspects of*) *Identify  
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 health* (see *Healthy  
 eating, aspects of*)

YOGA

**EVALUATION TOOL:** Student Story/Class-card  
\$5-History community classes  
Location: Evaluation Tool

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# music

**W**ITH SHE MOVES AND RECORDED HER LATEST ALBUM *Tramp*, Sharon Van Etten was homeless. No, she wasn't a ragdoll begging for change on street corners. But she spent that year couch-surfing in Brooklyn, penning the songs that would make up the album in quiet, stolen moments when her hosts were at work or asleep.

*Tramp* is a follow-up to two critically lauded efforts, *Because I Was in Love* (2009) and *Epic* (2010). Where those records were spare, cozy and mostly acoustic, Van Etten's latest finds the notoriously shy (and nameless) coming out of her shell. Produced by Aaron Dessner of the National, *Tramp* is noticeably louder and edgier, revealing a newly confident songwriter pushing her own boundaries while retaining her endearing confessional urgency.

In advance of her opening show at the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge this Saturday, November 30, *Seven Days* caught up with Van Etten by phone to talk about her new album, under-the-radar songwriters and the pop pitfalls of Kylie Minogue.

## The Lady Is a Tramp

Sharon Van Etten finds a home

BY DAN SUGLES



**SEVEN DAYS:** You were essentially homeless when you wrote and recorded *Tramp*. How did that transient lifestyle influence the album?

**SHARON VAN ETEN:** I think bouncing around from place to place and writing it in pieces helped the album have a lot more variety. There's more of a mix. I was nervous that would actually be a weak point of the album. But I think it ended up being a strength. Recording was actually the constant. It was the one place that I could go to. The recording part was going to the studio.

**SD:** Not having your own space to write must have been a challenge.

**SVE:** Definitely. You have to plan your life around your work, because you don't want to be the jerk that's jumping on the guitar and singing her heart out until five in the morning.

**SD:** You have had a lot of guardian angels pop up over the course of your career, many of whom show up on the album, including Aaron Dessner. How did touring with the National influence you?

**SVE:** There's something to be said for having a healthy relationship with the people you're traveling with. And I think that shows in writing and recording. So Aaron and his brother Bryce [Dessner], they're twins. And Aaron has always

and he's more intense and his brother is more laid. Bryce is more relaxed and classical, and Aaron is more rock and roll. So they have an interesting balance that's inspiring. They also work nonstop. And that's really motivating.

**SD:** *Tramp* is more rocking than your earlier albums. Did [Aaron Dessner] help you find your inner rocker?

**SVE:** The one thing I've wanted to do is the last few years writing and recording is to have a natural progression and let things happen organically. I went from acoustic guitar to a hollow-bodied guitar. Then I went into the studio and Aaron hands me his brother's Jaguar. And when you play that guitar, it's just so sad when you don't turn it up. It just wants to go. It doesn't want to be an acoustic, it wants to be cranked up. It wants to rock out. So it felt right.

**SD:** You're often characterized as a sad songwriter and a lot of your music is melancholy. Why is it that we find sad music so cathartic?

**SVE:** Every since I was a kid, I was taught to let your emotions go. I was one of those kids who had a really hard time communicating. So my mom gave me a journal and I would just write when I was dealing with something difficult. Being able to compartmentalize your emotions in a way that you can take

them out of yourself and put them down on paper and let it be its own thing — as a kid, it was a really simple but complex idea. And I'm still trying to understand it. But that's where my songwriting has tended to be. Whenever I'm going through something hard, I pick up my guitar and I play and sing and run. It's a form of self-therapy. And most of the time I don't want to share it with people because it's me trying to understand myself and get through it. But every now and then there's a message or an idea that I feel is universal, and I try and take that moment and turn it into a song, generative enough that people can relate to it. I think everyone goes through hard times and not many people talk about it. Those people learn from it and that people connect with it.

**SD:** The songs on the new album feel less confessional than your earlier stuff. Was that an intentional decision or just a natural evolution?

**SVE:** You know, I think most of my songs are still pretty confessional. But for some reason, because there's more of a hook-bait, there's more production around them, they're not perceived as being as confessional. I think that they are more confident songs. But they're still confessional, I think. I am trying to learn how to separate myself, to create a little bit of

distance between myself and my songs, which I think can be good.

**SD:** Folks like Justin Vernon, Aaron Dessner and Kyo Malone have been singing your praises for a long time and have helped people learn about your music. Now that you're becoming more well known, are there any under-the-radar artists you're excited to tell the world about?

**SVE:** I really like Lody Lamb. The Deeper She Gets such a beautiful spirit. I just heard Adele [also] for the first time, and I think her new record [Hollly Holy] is beautiful. She's from Chicago, and she sort of sings somewhere in between Ray Charles, Scott Walker and Diana [Dale] Clark. Those are two songwriters who I think are on their way to really amazing things.

**SD:** Do you have any guilty musical pleasures?

**SVE:** I just read a really interesting article about Kylie Minogue, and I want to get back into her stuff. She writes really amazing pop songs, and in my world pop is really underrated. But she's a pop princess. ☺

**Sharon Van Etten plays the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge this Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m. \$15. Coveries Juvies opens.**

# SOUNDbites

BY DAN BILLES



## Jumping Bean

One of these years, I want to join the Radio Bean tradition. If you're unfamiliar with the event, there's because I just invented it right now. Essentially, it entails showing up at the annual Bean birthday bash and staying from the opening act at 8:00 in the morning, crossing the finish line at 2 a.m., and taking in every single act that plays in between — this year, that would have been close to 70 bands.

One, I think it would make for a cool story — or at least an eye live blog session. Two, it would be a grueling test of rock-and-roll endurance. And three, by doing so, I would subject myself to disgruntled musicians being upset that I missed their band playing because I left for a bit to — guess — eat dinner and recharge my batteries.

This year I popped in and out of the Bean birthday party a few times over the course of the day and well into the evening. And much as **LEE ANDERSON** had promised, I can say it was probably the most enjoyable Bean birthday I've been to in my last couple of decades how much that I've attended most of them, whether as a fan, performer, or, in recent

years, *That Guy From Seven Days*.

The highlights from the day — and night — are almost too numerous to mention, which will happen when you've got bands playing every 15 minutes. But I do have a few thoughts I'd like to share. In no particular order:

**REBEKAH NEWHEUSER** of the **DAVIDS** provided perhaps the most punk-rock thing I've ever seen when she stepped to the stage with her infant daughter strapped to her back, and the band proceeded to play just about the rockiest set of the day (Chill out, sporty parents: The kid was wearing industrial-strength ear protection. It's not like he's blown through the Bean and she wouldn't have heard a thing!).

A few people I spoke to vented about the increased number of kids and babies at the party this year. I guess, as a collective sense, we're getting a little older. It's also nice to be reminded that growing up and rocking out aren't mutually exclusive. Also, that kid is probably gonna be the coolest person you or I will ever know. Unless she rebels against her rock-and-roll parents and becomes, well, something else.

**JOHN PANGLO** Hot damn. This was my first chance to see *Rebels* clearly

confronted outta. **JOSHUA PANDO** and the **NOT QUINNED** — see what I did it was? The new four piece — guitar, drums, vox and keys — provides the Kang & Pando with a decidedly lesser, pop-centric aesthetic. Though still soulful as hell, he seems to be moving away from the moody Americana sound he's best known for and into poster rock and roll. It's an interesting move and one that could pay off beyond the cozy confines of the Green Mountains. These have been whippers of big things on the horizon for Pando. Judging by what I heard, it wouldn't surprise me to see those massive materialize, stay tuned.

Speaking of new acts, I might have a new local favorite in **PARTY TOWN** — there's the cause of the band, not a creepy denotation of Burlington's "Gettint' On" nickname. A local all-star group, the redemptory band is fronted by **ANDREW HENNING** and **KEAT HENNING** and includes **ROLL PUNNY**, **JAMES DONALD** and **CHRISTINE MATHIAS** — on drums and aux, respectively — **LUKE SASSON** on guitar, **CAROLINE STONHAM** (YESMA) on bass and **EMILIE KIRK** on trumpet.

Rock and rollish in my younger days, I'll always have a soft spot for ska and, by extension, its laid-back cousin, reggae. (Bonus points if you've caught the **BLACKBERRY** reference there.) Playing only their second show, Party Town were remarkably polished and delivered an instantly likable and soulful rocksteady groove that had me longing for my old skanky and chickened suspension. The band is a side project and all of its members have main gigs that will likely keep them busy for a while longer when they'll play live? Just saying, rock and roll when they're — such as when they play an acoustic set at the Bean this Sunday, November 11, as part of the *Girls Back VT* showcase.

## Taking the Pulse

This week, Burlington will say goodbye to one of its longest running and most highly regarded bands, **PULSA PROGRESS**. The reggae outfit is calling it a career after about a decade with a show at *Planet's* this Friday, November 9. And, for now, will be sorry to see them go.

SOUNDBITES BY PTO



Follow @Soundbites on Twitter for multimedia news. Burlington on Solid State at [www.solidstate.com](http://www.solidstate.com).

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# SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

That last statement may come as a surprise to regular readers. This column has something of a reputation for being kind to irreverent music. Perhaps you're thinking, isn't that the guy who hates reggae?

Nope. I really dig reggae — see “like, rocksteady” above. This is the guy who hates *bad* reggae and gets play when the genre is co-opted by bands who think it's just music to get blasted to or a vehicle through which to spout dangerous racist shit. It's a complicated relationship, I know.

Anyway, I've always found Pulse Prophets to be one of the most genuine reggae acts working in the region. It's “higher consciousness” stuff, which can be a little suspect in the wrong hands. But the Prophets seem to come by their worldview honestly and are positive without being preachy. It's a fine line that Pulse Prophets have navigated deftly over the years. Plus, they can throw down some serious roots reggae grooves, which never hurts.

Happy trails, guys.

## BiteTorrent

Since we're on the birthday boat, here online: radio station WKKM.org — tagline: “Barking out hard music.” The



Pulse Prophets

station celebrates in style at Nexus's (see Saturday, November 10, with an all-star band led by my favorite ginger rock star — apologies to Trey — **BIG WAGNER**) I've told dudes will be tearing through some **DIYER AND THE DIAMONDS** tunes, including, obviously, “Lapla.”

Word on the street is that the opening rounds of the Punkiest Game in Vermont at context in Levitt last weekend were simply raucous. I couldn't attend — see “Radio Dese,” above — but I'll do my best to drop by the semifinal and final rounds at Club Microphone this Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10, when

the 14 corners who advanced — out of 37 — square off for the right to represent Vermont at the Punkiest Game in New England competition next year. And you should, too.

Last but not least, the Tupelo Music Hall (a White River Junction) is now fully operational after a word hiatus this summer. The venue is throwing a grand reopening party this Saturday, November 10, featuring **B&S** (see **DIYER AND THE DIAMONDS**) and a fancy new bar Hatch hoping **Y&H 1.0** fans better than the beta version. Bet either way, at least there's booze.



musical relationships



## Listening In

Dear reader: this week's totally self-indulgent column segment in which I drop a random sampling of what's on my iPod, turntable CD player, night-truck player etc., this week.

**Each Deck:**  
Mystery Sound

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Skeletal Devotion

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# REVIEW *this*

## Matt Townsend, *What Light Shall Be*

(SELF RELEASED TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

On his debut album, *What Light Shall Be*, Burlington-based songwriter Matt Townsend delivers a mature and smartly conceived collection of songs that enriches the local singer-songwriter treasury. This is a robust yet humble offering, an introduction that is satisfying in its own right yet hints at a wealth of potential.

Townsend generally sings in a plaintive style, especially when using his lower register. With a light, steady snap, his delivery is clean and unadorned, but his straightforward croon is efficient and puts the focus on Townsend's amiable wordplay. This subdued approach also serves to brighten the contrast when he does let loose, as on the second ball of album opener "The Garden Where the Grass



Former Grows." Here the singer reveals a soaring tenor that grips with emotive power but doesn't feel forced.

As a songwriter, Townsend generally favors spare acoustic backing. Much like his vocal work, as a guitarist he is solid but not flashy. On "Gentle into Teasing," he backs himself with a peppy, fingerpicked sequence that lulls and then undercuts, suitably precise. The playing is tame and understated, which is a hallmark and strength of the album's ten songs.

Liberated, Townsend's typical quiet, wide occasionally pivots, tend to be

artful without being overbearing. With a confidential bent and sophisticated observational metaphors, his often connects universally while remaining personally vulnerable — a rare feat for a young songwriter. Like many notable contemporaries, Townsend can dig too frequently into his cache of influences — hello, blues, Dylan and Mangum. But there's hardly a capital crime. And Townsend generally transcends rote bona worship by injecting enough personal style and wit to keep his musings fresh.

Matt Townsend is not a finished product. But his debut is readily impressive and marks this local songwriter as one who bears watching.

Townsend celebrates the release of *What Light Shall Be* with a show at the Stanley House this Thursday, November 8.

DAN HOLLES

## Adam Reczek, *Buttoned From the Bottom Up*

(SELF RELEASED TO DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

In my five-plus years covering local music for *Seven Days*, I have rarely come upon an artist as perplexing as Adam Reczek. From his first outing in 2009, *The Window First*, to 2011 follow-up, *The Fork in the Road EP*, it was clear that he wanted so badly to be good. But he just wasn't. That's not to say he was bad or lacked talent — he doesn't — or even that all the elements of a good songwriter were completely missing. It's just that those pieces didn't quite fit together. Or when they did, Reczek lacked the experience to complete the puzzle so matter how hard he tried. And, of, how he tried.

Reczek is a gifted guitarist and has displayed a knack — especially on this 2013 EP — for finding complex and engaging musical ideas. Where he has stumbled in the past is in the vocal department and that has in times overwhelmed Reczek's assets.



But, again, he has worked doggedly to overcome this challenge. And his tenacity reduced the threat of his latest, *Buttoned From the Bottom Up*.

I can honestly say I've never rooted so hard for a record to be good the way I have Reczek's latest. It's like the Burlington music scene equivalent of Italy.

So what's the verdict? It turns out Adam Reczek just might have sent Sam Smith to him after all.

While not a triumphal victory that will even him singing things, Reczek's third album is indeed charming more often than not. Building on his natural

strength, he's improved both as a songwriter and a singer. His lyrical skills are nearly a match for his instrumental prowess. And though still prone to occasional awkward phrasing, Reczek's vocal delivery is sturdy enough to carry the weight of his well-considered words.

On *Buttoned From the Bottom Up*, Adam Reczek seems to have figured it out. Aided by astutely constructed and often lush arrangements, he sounds more confident and self-assured. Whether diving into neo-folkian piano pop ("Directions"), cooing sweet, late-night, acoustic ballads ("The Perfect World") or unfolding some old-fashioned, glory rocking guitar ("Inner"), Reczek seems comfortable in his songwriting skin. Despite a few momentary stumbles, *Buttoned From the Bottom Up* justifies this musician's tireless work and admirable determination.

Adam Reczek plays Nocturne in Burlington this Saturday, November 30.

DAN HOLLES

Watch something LOCAL this week.

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**What to do with LEAVES**

When you're done jumping in the leaf piles and pulling up your garden beds, here's where to bring it all:

**Accepting only leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden debris, house plants, yard debris (3" woody debris less than 1/2" diameter), NO plastic, branches, dirt, rocks**  
For disposal of larger woody debris or other materials, visit our site at 802-8111

**Limits:** 5 cubic yards at Drop Off Centers (Winooski, Winooski, & Colchester) at McNeil, Winooski at Green Mountain Compost. Dumping near streams allowed only at the Winooski, DOC, McNeil or Green Mountain Compost.

**Burlington - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 319 Pine St. Wed 9:30-5, Thur & Sat 8-3:30  
**North Wood & Yard Waste Dept:** 111 Intervale Rd. 10/27-11/12 Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri Sat 8-4 - **Beginning 11/10:** Tue-Fri 8-12, Sat 8-3:30  
**Household cardboard leaf pickup:** November 13-19 on your recycling day  
Leaves must be on the curb by 7 a.m., in compostable bag per bag only

**Ennech - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 214 Colchester Rd. (Rte. 24), Tue 9:30-5, Wed-Sat 8-3:30  
**Special Sunday hours 11/4 & 11/10: 8-4, leaves only**

**Hinesburg - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 907 Beecher Hill Rd., Sat 8-3:30  
**Milliston - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 36 Landell Rd. (Off Rte. 7), Mon 9:30-5, Fri & Sat 8-3:30  
**Richmond - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 80 Rogers Ln. (Off River Rd.), Tue & Sat 8-3:30, Thur 9-3:30

**South Burlington - CSWD Drop-Off Center:** 87 Landell Rd. (Off Paschen Rd.) Mon Tue, Thur Sat 8-3:30, Fri 9-3:30  
**Special Sunday hours 11/4 & 11/10: 8-4, leaves only**

**Williston - Green Mountain Compost:** 1042 Redmond Rd. Mon-Sat 8-4  
**Special Sunday hours 11/4 & 11/10: 8-4 - Beginning 11/10:** Mon-Sat 8-4

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# Aboriginal Access

"Crossing Cultures," Hood Museum of Art

**T**he exhibit of contemporary Australian Aboriginal art at Dartmouth College's Hood Museum is sure to dazzle light-deprived northern New Englanders with its blasts of sunny colors and pulsating patterns.

The show will also surprise — maybe even shock — many visitors. Described by critic Robert Hughes as "the last great art movement of the 20th century," Aboriginal painting had sculpture from Down Under remains little known in North America 40 years after the start of their renaissance. By contrast, work by living indigenous artists commands high prices in Australia and is frequently featured in European galleries and museums.

Germans in the U.S. were slow to appreciate the quality and vitality of the art making that got under way in 1971 in Purnulima, a desert settlement in northern Australia. There, a group of Aboriginal men supplied with materials by a local schoolteacher began painting images that arose from 50,000 years of collective cultural memory. They applied to boards and canvases a pictorial language inspired by the Dreaming, the Aboriginal creation myth.

In 1986, Asia Society in New York mounted a landmark exhibition titled "Dreamings: The Art of Aboriginal Australia." It caused a sensation — but only briefly. Not until 2000 did the Metropolitan Museum, the nation's foremost world-art repository, stage a show of Aboriginal work, and even then one included only 10 pieces.

The Hood, however, got ahead in to Aussie indigenous art early as it helped immensely that the museum's former director, Brian Kennedy, had headed the National Gallery of Australia from 1987 to 2004. At his instigation, the Hood staged a 2006 show by Aboriginal female artists, titled "Dressing Their Way" that proved controversial.

American art collectors Wail Owen and Harvey Wapner, who last painted in their exhibit six years ago, were so impressed by Dartmouth's interpre-

tion of the work into course material that they agreed to donate their entire collection to the Hood. The 100-plus pieces now on display represent about a fifth of the pair's gift to the museum. The Hanover, N.H., institution has thus become North America's foremost treasure chest of Australia's reborn Aboriginal art.

At least a couple of hours are needed to take in "Crossing Cultures: The Owen and Wapner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art." The show is overwhelming in size, variety and, often, in sheer beauty. Most visitors will also need time to acclimate to an unfamiliar set of premises and references.

This is one case in which text panels elucidate the work in new rather than divert attention from them. The paintings' viewers are not asked to be geometric abstractionists, but in the contemporary medium clear, they're actually symbolic expressions — of the Dreaming, yes, and of natural features such as "rainbow" and "rockholes." These terms — referring to pools of water in the desert and semicircular land forms, respectively — are unfortunately not defined in the show.

The outlook is clearly the source of the patience used by most of the painters. Figures, *Ngangkari*, for example, wear beards and black ink circles and furrows in "Warrungu," the name



## REVIEW

elaborate, given the ongoing legacy of anti-Aboriginal racism in the nation.

Even Tony Albert's grumpy watercolor "Blackbird" shows a dark, hunched figure bookended by blue men with small rifles embedded in their bodies.

Owen and Wapner collect sculpture, too. Some of these pieces, such as a set of "law poles" striped in ochre and other objects fringed with feathers, may require that viewers consult the explanatory panels for better comprehension. But some sculptures couldn't be more accessible. A grouping of wood-carved animals, for example, includes a dingo that looks a little like one of the dog coverings of late Vermont folk artist Stephen Blumick.

Such a resemblance across time and space is congruent with "Crossing Cultures."

KEVIN J. KELLEY

**THE SHOW IS OVERWHELMING  
IN SIZE, VARIETY AND, OFTEN, IN SHEER BEAUTY.**

according to the accompanying text.

Many of the paintings are executed with a pointillist technique that calls to mind the French postimpressionist Georges Seurat. But the marks these Aboriginal artists make are more the size of droplets than dots of paint, and they don't create forms Western viewers would describe as representational art.

Some of the younger artists in the show do depart from the style that emerged at Purnulima. Samantha Hobson, born in 1981, appears to have been influenced by Jackson Pollock-style action painting as her phosphorescent "Wave Break at Night."

Painted pieces appear at the Hood, as well. Their inclusion is practically

**F** Crossing Cultures: The Owen and Wapner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art. Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Through March 10. [bit.ly/1444444](http://bit.ly/1444444)



RESEARCHER-ASSISTANT: 12-0000-0000-0000-0000

**CHRISTY WITCHELL, "A Bird in Prison" 2002**

**CHRISTY WITCHELL**, "A Good Friday" 2000  
component's song is a single series of work that  
explores our shared and/or separate experiences  
the lot of people — and this at the heart of gallery  
work space. Through November 20 at the P.A.C.E.  
Gallery in Manhattan. Info: [pacegallery.com](http://pacegallery.com).

**CONTRIBUTOR:** \*Armed Project, Brazilian Economists, hand carved and painted facemasks of objects related to people suffering, full fatigue, low pay wages and violence in most collections. Through November 24 at SOCA cases in museum.

Indy, Ind. (West)

**GRASS MONKEY** 'Reflections,' cityscape landscape and figurative paintings. Curated by West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park. Through December 2 at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington. Info: 733-8143

**EDNA ANN HOWLAND** "A View From the Breakthrough" photographs and audio stories from the remarkable Sea Stages windows are produced in collaboration with the Vermont Paleolithic Center. Through January 28 at Amy C. Third St Century Flyer Center in Burlington info: 802-471-1111

**USA 400:** An Affix by Shaver presents poets by the varied self taught Washington Ed. Through December 31 at Shaver Chevrolet in South Washington, Info: USA 781

**ERIC LEONHARDT** draws his latest, new script parts every Thursday November 28 at Spooling/Venues in Brooklyn. Info: 342-0002

**FULL GROUP SHOW:** Hosted by Nancy Dwyer (in chair) with Ray Brown, Clark Duffels, Elizabeth Krizan and Fern Hernandez. Curated by SPARK. Through November 30 at The Innovation Center of Design in Rochester, NY. 858-1000

**GALLERY ERAND (OPENING)** Artwork and ribbon festival on Friday, October 15, 10am-5pm. Featuring: Annette Poretti, Amy McQueen, CORAL LINDEN, Paula Teresa Horta, Dan Forbes and others. Through December 31 at Vermont Arts and Crafts Center, 100 Main St., Shelburne, VT 05482. 802/465-4500.

**BRUCE/CEHALIE** Handmade cottages and works in panels and onlaid panels. Through-November 23 at Midway Avenue and Bucklehorn. Info 810 3370.

**IMPRESSIONS OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN AND BEYOND**  
 is now on at Cambridge House, 14000 St. Mary  
 Avenue, Schenectady, New York. 12309. A portion  
 of all sales will be donated to the Vermont Society  
 of Ornithology. Through November 28 at  
 LUCAS BOOKSTORE, 815 Hudson Ave. 10010.

**IN FRONT OF US:** Whole Cloud Living Arts Festival on presents artworks by Bill Kanneau, Myra Lopez, Marge Smethell, Ernie Corbin and Anne Cline. Sponsored by Bristol Friends of the Arts, Mount Vernon Park, Living ArtLife are Home, and the Thompson/Corbin Center. Through November 23 at Mt. Vernon Park, Greenleaf Chapel in Washington.

**JAMES HANAGAN**, *Tell us Line*: photographs and video projections that use hi-magnified bird band numbers as pictographs to tell the story of the birds' lives and the water within the context of the military. Through January 15 at MOA Center in Burlington. Info: 502-7361.

**JOHN BRICKALE** "Pipe Dreams" reinvents everyday soft sculpture incorporating vintage dish, meters and valves. Through November 30 at Cordato Gallery in Huntington. Info: 833-876

JOHN BURNHAM & JERRY LEESEY "Musical Glory" photographs. Through November 2016. Available by appointment. 916.365.6022

**JOH HANCOCK H66A** The TextureLight™ edge-lighting of the vibrant heritage. Through January 2 at Evansville Mills in Huntington, IN. 800-445-6666.

**JULIE BACH MASTROT** 'Purified' the city, photographer of paintings of items created by other big names at home. Through December 31 at Free gallery on the Upper East Side, 2013 EAST

**KYLE RATHER: Thompson** For SHOTS, signed and numbered prints of pop-art designs by the local artist and his "Through November 30 at 1st Lounge installation. Info: 845.0002

**LATITUDE/LONGITUDE: WEAVING THEM, ASSEMBLING STORIES** Reflects on identity and geographic bloodlines by Lynn Murray, Martha Kistner and Tina Evans. Through November 30 at

LAUREN BROWNELL & JAYSHANARAYD  
Pitanga hydrothermal phenolite: Apatite  
Inclusions, 30, 1, 1995, 1-10

**LEAH WARREN** Lunches and snacks available. Through November 30 at Hainesport Inn Gallery, Hainesport, PA 800-368-7500.

**HARTMILLBLONDE** Watercolors by the Vermont artist. Through November 30 at Owen Studio Gallery, Burlington. Info: 433.7000

**NICOLE HAMMEVILLE & SUEAN HEWIS** "Optimistic" pending since not by the natural world and the magic of the unknown. Through November 30 at The Gallery at Pines Street Landing in Burlington. Info: [www.gallatry.com](http://www.gallatry.com)

**'DELAWARE' AND THE PERFORMANCE OF LIFE**  
Intimately studied objects, not all my modes, besides,  
and we stray from indigenous cultures of the  
American continent, from the great, the ancient, the modern.

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visit [www.ashleymaine.com](http://www.ashleymaine.com)  
 and her art's David Saxe. Through November 16  
 at The Gallery at Phoenix Books in Los Angeles  
 info: 402.378

**RENEE LAUDON:** If We Are Two, They're All Mine

To follow the Urban Justice Foundation this report objectively and subjectively in a series of videos through November 30 at Pilsbury House. Watch the Free Library in Burlington info: 802-226-1000

**THE MONTGOMERY AD.** "Through his on Page 1's only close up by the off light set at BUTCHER AND BORDS. PRINTS BY WILLIAM BLAKE AND LEONARD BARKIN. Works dealing with a more traditional world and a more traditional culture." *Montgomery*

FROM MORNING TO NIGHT JOIN US



### 'Small Works Show'

**"Small Works Show"** When Edgewater Gallery opened in Midhills three years ago, it took a decidedly more arty, less crafty, tack than its predecessor, Frag Hollow. So far, the model has worked. The gallery is still going strong. In celebration of its third birthday, Edgewater is showcasing paintings, drawings, photographs and mixed-media constructions by more than 20 of its member artists. And in the spirit of holiday shopping, all works are smaller than 18 square inches and priced under \$300. Set for its Saturday, November 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. the aperitifs and wine at the opening reception. And don't miss the paintings of Dennis by the middle-class Craner, whose work was featured on the cover of the best-selling novel *The Help*. Through January 2, 6 p.m. "Midland Reachings" by Joan Randers.



## CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SHOWS &amp; FET

Open to the public 8:00-2:00

**HATCHER BUCKING** Acrylic paintings of children and landscapes. Through November 20 at The Storefront at Green River in Montpelier. Info: artcenter@hatcherbuck.com

**LESLIE PARRIS** Clay sculpture. Parris' work encompasses the fabric and the clay, using many themes of human evolution, interdependence, and transformation. October 3 through November 2 at Hyde Park Arts Center. Info: info@hydeparkarts.org

**LINDA HUNTER** Medallions on enamel and glass. Jewelry with paper and canvas. Through November 4 at City Center in Montpelier. Info: 783-8636

**MARCIA HAMMOND & ROBERT WISE** Hammond's artwork and Wise's glasswork are presented in a joint exhibition. "Seasons Living Together" November 4. Also, a series of paper and glass jewelry by Linda Hunter. Through October 20 at Colchester—The Arts at City in Newfane. Info: 233-3420

**NEWBERRY LEE FIBER EXHIBITION** Work by the Upper Valley artist Lee F. Lee. Through October 20 at Newberry Gallery in Newfane. Info: 674-3630

**THE HISTORY OF OSBORNE COLLEGE: AFRICA BY GROWTH** EXHIBITION AND TALKS FROM 1960-1980. A collection of photographs, historical records, posters, posters, letters, and other materials that tell the story of the college's expansion to the south growth of the 1960s in the East of the United States. Through December 30 at Osborn College in Randolph. Info: 334-8331

**THE WINDS OF ENERGY AND TECHNIQUE** A series of work by Robert Whitehead. Through November 12 at Chandler Gallery in Randolph. Info: 333-3333

**WHO CARES?** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**WILD THINGS: CONTEMPORARY ART INSPIRED BY NATURE** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

## 04 champlain valley

**AMERICAN COUNTRY DESIGNER** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**BACKSTAGE AT THE HAMMOND CASTLE CO. THE FIRST SERIES OF BURNING THE WIND** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**CAMPBELL HERRICK** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**REINA DUBOIS** "A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**ROSE BAKER** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

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**'Hooked in the Mountains XVI'** The hookers are back. Each year, the Green Mountains Rag Hooking Guild fills the Road Barn at Shelburne Museum with some of the coolest, most intricate rags and fiber-art pieces around. This year, more than 500 works are on display, including Marilee Kruse's bewitching, photorealistic portrait of a young woman, whose fiery locks look more like lion's mane than hair. Ann Marie Enticknap's surprisingly macabre, "Tombox" (pictured), which depicts a plaid-clad person's splashing robes of tools, all rendered beautifully in fiber, and featured artist Lisa Grath's colorful interpretation of a computer chip. November 10 through 17.

**SHOWING TRADITIONS: THE ART OF MEMORIALS** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

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**LISA GRATH THROUGH THE LENS** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

**MARKS, WORDS, AND THINGS** A series of work by the artist, who produced an 8 by 4 inch painting distributed by the artist's first-class bank, a network of individuals and organizations who provide the care and support for each other. Through November 20 at Montpelier City Hall. Info: 262-6243

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## MOVIE CLIPS

### NEW IN THEATERS

**DOWN IN THE VALLEY** ★★ Two men travel to travel. The laughter of Twigg's car and the style of the car to Jack O. This documentary chronicles the war between a father and his son, which is the story of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

**SAM, SAM!** ★★ Sam's (David Cross) story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

**THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2** ★★ Having an inside perspective on the story of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

### NOW PLAYING

**ANALOGUE** ★★ A film about a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

**THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY** ★★ A film about a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

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## ratings

★ = excellent  
★★ = very good  
★★★ = good  
★★★★ = very good  
★★★★★ = excellent

ALL RATES ASSIGNED TO MOVIES NOT RECORDED  
BY THE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE ARTISTS  
AND PRODUCERS OF AMERICA (MPAA) RATING SYSTEM  
FOR FILMS. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.  
RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

## MOVIE CLIPS

The screen as a historical space, in which the same story can play several different characters in the story. The screen as a historical space, in which the same story can play several different characters in the story. The screen as a historical space, in which the same story can play several different characters in the story.

**FLUENT IN LOVE** ★★ A film about a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

**THE HOUSE I LIVE IN** ★★ A film about a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him. The story is a comedy of a father's battle to keep his son from leaving him.

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NOV 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



# MOVIE CLIPS

MOVIE CLIPS 4/10

**RITCH PERFECT** \*\*\* It's all about the perfect. Anna Corbett and Hillary Rose play members of an all-female college basketball team who go to great lengths to win the trophy. With Rachel Wilson, Corbett and Rose make the most of their 100 min. PG-13. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**SAMUEL** \*\*\* It's all about the perfect. Anna Corbett and Hillary Rose play members of an all-female college basketball team who go to great lengths to win the trophy. With Rachel Wilson, Corbett and Rose make the most of their 100 min. PG-13. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**SEVEN EIGHT NINE** \*\*\* It's all about the perfect. Anna Corbett and Hillary Rose play members of an all-female college basketball team who go to great lengths to win the trophy. With Rachel Wilson, Corbett and Rose make the most of their 100 min. PG-13. (Hulu, R, 10/10)



Longer

**SILENT HILL: REVELATIONS** A young girl (Katie Cassidy) finds herself in a dark, twisted world. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN** A young girl (Katie Cassidy) finds herself in a dark, twisted world. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN** A young girl (Katie Cassidy) finds herself in a dark, twisted world. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**WICKED** \*\*\* It's all about the perfect. Anna Corbett and Hillary Rose play members of an all-female college basketball team who go to great lengths to win the trophy. With Rachel Wilson, Corbett and Rose make the most of their 100 min. PG-13. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

## NEW ON VIDEO

**THE AMAZING BRIDE** \*\*\* It's all about the perfect. Anna Corbett and Hillary Rose play members of an all-female college basketball team who go to great lengths to win the trophy. With Rachel Wilson, Corbett and Rose make the most of their 100 min. PG-13. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN** A young girl (Katie Cassidy) finds herself in a dark, twisted world. (Hulu, R, 10/10)

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN** A young girl (Katie Cassidy) finds herself in a dark, twisted world. (Hulu, R, 10/10)



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## movies you missed

### 63: Turn Me On, Dammit!

This week in Movies: How Many

Alma is young, attractive and horny. No this isn't a porno.



**A**lex (Olivier Bonafant), age 33, lives in the desolate town of Skidabehn, a place where who grew up in rural Vermont will instantly recognize as much as all teenagers' up and the open the film by using local landmarks. "Good. Good with love or staged therapy." And, yes, Alex is horny. He's horny. He calls a phone-sex line, fantasizes incessantly and masturbates in inappropriate places. Unfortunately, the guys around her aren't as sexually savvy as his phone friend.

MARGOT HARRISON

Find the rest of our Movies section at [www.vtnews.com](http://www.vtnews.com).



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## NEWS QUIRKS BY ROLAND SWEET

### Curses, Foiled Again

Dispatchers who receive of an emergency call in Leavenworth, Kan., found nobody on the open line, so they used a locator program to pinpoint where the call came from and notified police to investigate. Officers arriving at the scene determined that Jesus David Jordan, 26, had accidentally "bun-dled" the emergency number from his cell phone. As they were leaving, however, they spotted huggies in the back seat of his car filled with what turned out to be crack cocaine and arrested him. (Kansas City, Mo. KSHB-TV)

### Pretty Boys

South Korean men spent \$108.5 million on skincare products last year, accounting for nearly 20 percent of global sales, according to the market research firm Euromonitor International. And Asia-specific, South Korean biggest cosmetics company estimated total sales of such cosmetics in South Korea this year will exceed \$140 million, making the Asian nation the world's male makeup capital. Noting American men are often wary of makeup, Seoul's Mahalingham School of Korean studies at Australian National University and South Korean men regard effeminate male beauty as "a marker of social success" (Associated Press)

### Avogadro's Pollies

The Georgia state Board of Funeral Services suspended Caryn's funeral director William S. Ellenberg III for disassembling the body of an 800-pound person before cremating it. "I cut the fatty tissue off the side of the legs so it would fit inside the crematory," Ellenberg said. "I did what I had to do to get the body cremated for the family" (Atlanta WOL-9TV)

### Homeland Insecurity

The Department of Homeland Security inspector general reported that 200,000 employees and contractors were arrested in 2011. Crimes included border patrol agents smuggling drugs, Immigration and Customs Enforcement largely documenting and robbing drug dealers, and Transportation Security Administration agents caught with child pornography. The good news, according to the inspector general's summary of significant investigations, is that arrests were down from 320 in 2010. (Herald)

A Congressional investigation comprising airport workers at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), which employs private contractors, and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which relies on TSA agents, found that SFO screens processed 68 percent more passengers than their LAX counterparts. "The study by the House

Transportation & Infrastructure committee noted that both groups receive the same wages and benefits and use virtually the same equipment" (Forbes)

### Location, Location, Location

While Frank Rodriguez, 20, was on his way out of jail in Santa Fe, N.M., he stole \$40 from another inmate who was going through booking. He treated himself to lunch before he was caught and returned to jail. (Albuquerque's KOATV)

### Energy Backfires

Renewable energy would be the world's ongoing problem because it can't be stored, so when it's generated, it must be consumed or risk overloading the power grid and causing blackouts. The overcapacity problem affects China and Texas but is particularly acute with wind energy generated by Germany. On windy days, it keeps power Central and Eastern European countries, causing them to consider discarding their power lines "to prevent accidents and destruction." Pavel Solc, Czech deputy minister of industry and trade, said. (Helsingborg News)

Sweden's program to generate energy from garbage is so efficient that Sweden has had to begin importing trash from other countries, to the tune of 500,000 tons a year. Only 4 percent of Sweden's garbage makes it to landfill. Norway pays Sweden to take its garbage, and Canada Ontario, a senior adviser for Sweden's environmental protection agency, said it's looking at Bulgaria, Romania and Italy as potential sources of garbage to provide electricity. "I would say maybe in the future, this waste will be valued even more," Ontario said. (NPR)

Connecticut's nuclear power plant had to shut down one of its two reactors this summer because seawater used to cool the plant was too warm. The Millstone Power Station, which uses water from Long Island Sound, provides half of all power used in Connecticut and 12 percent in New England. It was the first time in the 37-year-old plant's history that unusually warm water caused a shutdown. (Associated Press)

### Positive Fallout

In addition to spreading Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ticks may be boosting vegetarians. University of Virginia researchers found that a bite from a Lone Star tick can cause victims to become allergic to alpha-gal, a substance found in the meat of hooved animals. Sufferers break out in hives or feel sick when they eat a few hours after eating meat. (Savvy)



## Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

That is not gonna take you to ride in records, collect hard-earned goodies and celebrate occasions you've been building towards for a long time. It's time of you end up doing those things, but I suspect that what you've been suited for might now be getting things started. You'll attract help from unexpected sources if you lay the groundwork for projects you want to work on throughout 2013. You'll be in alignment with cosmic rhythms, too. Your motto comes from your fellow Borealis, writer Robert Louis Stevenson: "Judge each day last by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant."

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) What if you have a twin sister or brother that you neither give up the adoption rights after you were born and never told you about? Or what if you have a sibling you've never met—a potential ally who understands life in much the same ways that you do? In either case, now is a time when the two of you might finally discover each other. At the very least, thank fate; support you'll be going deeper and deeper with a limited circle who will help you transform your dreams about your siblings and make you feel more at home on the planet.

**GEHNI** (May 21-June 20) I imagine you want to establish an identity not as the end of physical life, but as a metaphor for shedding what comes. I can't help but to describe the best death I've had ever experienced. I get a response that's appropriate to you right now from a reader named Judy: "My death was getting this poem as a gift 3½ while living in the Philippines. My mother finished me to the TV news. I was unimpressed but hyperactive, lonely and close to agony by the awful shows. But after six hours something popped. My suffering faded away, and a miracle blossomed. I closed my eyes and my imagination opened up like a vortex. Images, colors, sounds, people, familiar and strange—all seemed real and vibrant—flowed through my head. I knew then and there that no material thing on this Earth could make me up to the source of life like my own thoughts. I was free!"

**CANCER** (June 21-July 21) Conversations are surprised by what has been transpiring in and around Nigeria. Chosen National Park, the signs that live there have changed their schedule. Previously they prowled around at all hours, day and night. But, as more people have moved into the area the creatures have increasingly become nocturnal. Researchers who have studied the situation believe the signs are doing so in order to better coexist with humans. I suspect that a metaphysically similar development is possible for you. Cancerian, Meditate on how the subtlest part of you could adapt better to the most visible part—and vice versa. (Read more: [myplanet.com/energy/](http://myplanet.com/energy/))

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) What is a dry water tank? The term may refer to the location of an extinct waterfall where a raw ocean fell over a cliff but has since stopped flowing. Or it may refer to a source of water that only exists for a while after a heavy rain and then disappears again. One example is on Brinkman Mountain in Honduras. A tree waters show up in "Cafe Beyond Beyond," "Dry Waterfall," a landscape painting by George O'Connell, to which rendering of a stark landscape near the New Mexico town where O'Connell lived. Soon you will have your own metaphorical version of a dry water tank. Let us know how you're ready for it.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are getting to where you need to be, but you're still not there. You have a good share of the raw materials you need to accomplish your goal but as of yet you don't have enough of the resources that will make everything work. The powers state you're establishing a network of a psychology that will allow you to create a new world of ideas. But not yet. You're still in the process of creating a new world of ideas. You're still in the process of creating a new world of ideas.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Doctors used to believe that ulcers were caused by stress and spicy foods. But in the 1980s, two researchers named Barry Marshall and Robin Warren began to promote an alternative theory. They believed the culprit was a type of bacteria. To test their hypothesis, Marshall gave a piece of his own stomach to his wife. He got a gastric ulcer and underwent an endoscopy. The evidence proved that he and his partner were correct. They won a Nobel Prize for their work. (And Marshall recovered just fine.) I urge you to be inspired by their approach. Libran, Marshall's experiments that allow you to make practical use of your ideas and consider making yourself as a patient pilot.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do a basic map up and a picture that was barely moving. What is it? It's not! He wanted to help. Drawing cards, he discovered that ants were making it all over it. He realized them off then carved the idea to his car and drove it to a veterinarian. After a thorough examination

the doctor realized the person was suffering from a fungus that the ants had been eating away at—and it wouldn't have been noticed if the man hadn't been eating. Most of the story. Sometimes healing takes place in unexpected ways and nature knows better than we do about how to make it happen. Keep that in mind during the coming weeks. September.

**CAPRICORN** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A tower in Japan found a 58-year-old clown! He actually he lived in his garden at home. It took effort on his part. Presumably it provided him with the skills of a clown. He had a clown. I don't think your good name will be quite that outweight in the coming week. Capricorn, but there's a decent chance you'll get into at least the 58-year-old. To take your place of the 58-year-old in the future, remember this: Luck tends to follow the direction of those who work hard to prepare for it and commit.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The largest ball in the world is located in Moscow, Russia. Called the Tsar Ball, it's a massive sphere, 445,130 pounds and is elegantly decorated with images of people, angels and plants. It has never been seen in its 233 years of existence. Is there anything comparable in your own life? Aquarian, I have a question that has never actually been asked: "The time is now when the statistics of life really come to an end. I suggest you decide how this will occur either then allowing life to choose for you."

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Are you interested in exploring a close relationship with a holy anomaly or a newly blessing or a divine wild card? If not, that's perfectly OK. Just say "No." I'm not ready for a physical burst of unending grace. And the finaly operator or creative beauty my psychic intuition will avoid making contact with you. You have a choice. But if you suspect you might enjoy communing with a subversive blast of illumination—if you think you could have fun coming to terms with a truly ecstatic that blows your mind—then go out under the night sky and let the stars tell you. You're ready for it. Sweetest Pisces!

Look familiar? We didn't quite print this week's astrological details in last week's paper. Our apologies for the cosmic confusion.

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## LULU EIGHTBALL

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW







Tiny Sepuku @2012

Dina Tury  
I'm trying to be a healthier  
person by changing what I  
eat. How do I make sure  
I stick to my new diet?

- TINY  
LINTH, ME



DO I CHANGE THE MEAT AND  
JUICY BREADS WITH OTHER  
BREADS WITH GREY SKIN,  
OR A BITE OF THE LEAF?



TO HELP WITH THIS, TRY TO  
FIND YOUR OWN ROUTES.



HOW TWO WILD  
GIRLS AND KYLE  
SHOOTING, ITS  
JUST LIKE A  
MILKSHAKE.

ONE OF US HAS  
CONCEPT  
NEVER HAD A  
MILKSHAKE.



DO I CHANGE A MEAT  
PIZZA AND BREAD  
CRACK, OR A BITE  
OF THE LEAF?



YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO STICK TO  
THE MEAT IF YOU GO INTO IT  
WITH ONE AND THEN WITH A  
HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE EACH  
MEAT AND BREAD, OR FISH.



YOU CAN ALSO FIND HEALTHY  
ALTERNATIVES TO THE MEAT  
(MILK) TOGETHER WITH THEM.



JUSTICE OF THE  
BITE, IT WILL HAVE  
A BITE OF THE LEAF.



I REMEMBER  
THAT THE  
MEAT.

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## STEVE EARLE

*Solo & Acoustic*

Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

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Meet & greet with Steve Earle • Access to preferred seating, which includes a private bar



## NAPPY ROOTS

*with Burlington's Lyruguistic Civilians*

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

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